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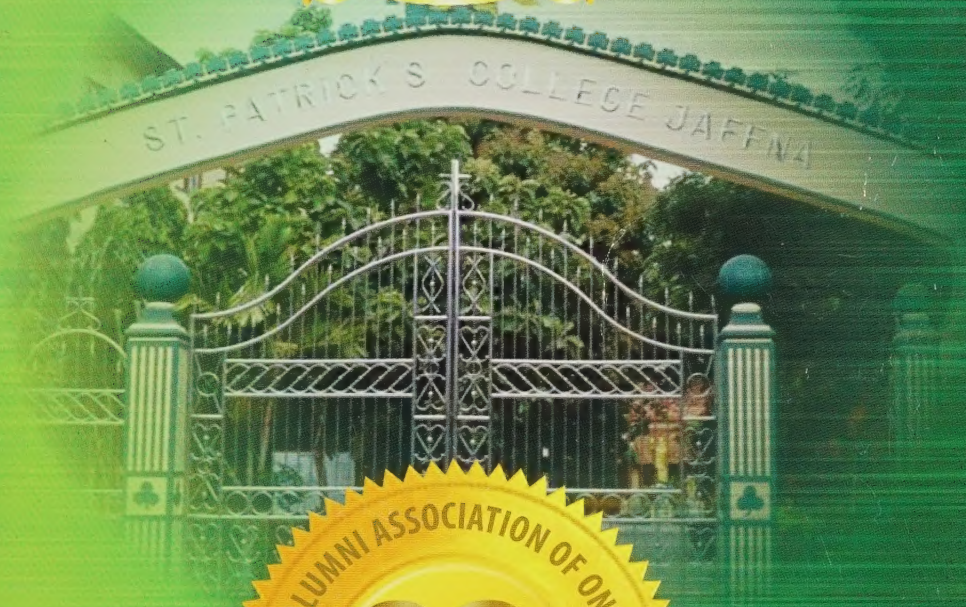
St. Patrick's College Jaffna

Alumni Association of Ontario Canada



SPCJ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
30th
1987 - 2017
ANNIVERSARY

Canadian Patrician Green & Gold Souvenir

June 24th, 2017

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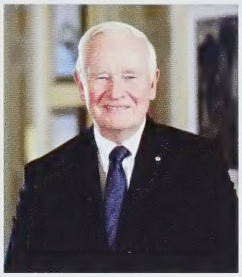

I am pleased to extend sincere congratulations to the staff and members of the St. Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association Ontario as you gather to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Canadians are known throughout the world for their compassionate efforts to make a difference in the lives of others. As a country, we would not have this reputation without the tireless work of people like you who have committed themselves to making their community a better place.

All those involved in building this organization into what it has become today deserve to be recognized for their skills and dedication; your generosity, both of time and heart, is truly remarkable. Let this occasion serve as an opportunity to recognize the values of service and friendship that you so frequently demonstrate and to which we all aspire.

I wish you a most enjoyable celebration as you mark this momentous milestone.

David Johnston

May 2017

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Absent: Preman Sinnadurai

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

June 24, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the 30th Anniversary of the St. Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association, Ontario.

This special occasion offers alumni of St. Patrick College Jaffna an opportunity to renew old ties and share treasured memories of their Alma Mater. No matter what path you have taken since graduating from St. Patrick College Jaffna, the education you received has contributed to your personal development and careers, and will always be part of the proud history that unites you.

Since its founding three decades ago, the Alumni Association has fostered fellowship among members, promoted community service, and recognized the achievements of graduates who live in Canada.
You can take pride in the contributions that Sri Lankan Canadians have made, and continue to make, to our nation in all fields of endeavour.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable anniversary.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

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Ontario

Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

June 24, 2017

A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Green & Gold Gala, an event held in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the St. Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association.

I offer my special congratulations to the founders of the association, and to its past and present leaders and members, on achieving this milestone anniversary. I want to take this opportunity to recognize your enduring contributions to the social, economic and cultural life of our province, and your role in strengthening the ties between Sri Lanka and Canada.

I would also like to thank all those who helped to make this event possible. I am very pleased that St. Patrick's College alumni will have the opportunity to come together to reflect with pride on the past, and strengthen the ties that have been created through shared experience.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable evening, and for much continued fulfilment and success.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

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30 April 2017

To: The SPC Jaffna Alumni Association, Toronto.

My dear Patricians,

Please accept my warm wishes and prayers as you celebrate 30th anniversary of your Alumni Association. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to know that you have been faithfully serving your Alma Mater for the last 30 years in various ways, particularly during the civil war times.

During my Rectorship of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, your Association was ever willing to help the school develop and get back on track as it had gone through tremendous hardships and displacements. Your support to develop the Athletic side of the school was really commendable. Even after I left SPC I was aware that you all continued to assist the College in whatever way you could. I am sure the Souvenir you intend publishing will carry the assistance you had given to the College in the past and also your pledge to continue that good work in the coming years.

May you continue to support your Alma Mater morally and financially and also foster friendship and cordiality among yourselves when ever you have your gatherings. I wish you all success for the 30 anniversary celebrations and pray that your heavenly Patron, St. Patrick, guide you and your loved ones with his continued intercessions.

One again I wish you all success for the 30th Anniversary Celebrations. May God bless you all.

Yours devotedly in the Lord & M.I.

+ JB Gnanapragasam

The Right Revd. Dr. Justin B Gnanapragasam
Bishop of Jaffna

Rt. Revd. Dr. Justin B Gnanapragasam
Bishop of Jaffna

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Jn. 10:10

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Email : frjero@gmail.com

Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Tel/Fax: 021 222 2388
Email: stpatricksjaffna@gmail.com

10.06.2017

Greetings from the Rector

Dear Patricians in Toronto,

I am glad to join you, when you celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Alumni Association in Toronto.

I am certain, that the founder members will be much delighted that what they initiated in 1987 has been very well cherished and enriched over the years. When I first visited Toronto in 1998, I could see for myself the enthusiasm and interest with which Patricians were functioning.

I thank all the executive committees headed by efficient Presidents for collaborating well for growth of the Association and the welfare of the Alma Mater. Over the years Toronto Alumni Association had extended their help for various projects of the college.

On behalf of the Staff and Students, I express my deep gratitude to all members for their generosity towards the present generation of Patricians going through new challenges.

I wish each and everyone who gather for this memorable occasion God's abundant Blessings.

May you all enjoy a pleasant day.

MJeroselvanayagam

Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam
Rector

Rev. Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam
RECTOR
St. Patrick's College
Jaffna

புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி, யாழ்ப்பாணம்.

La Nazionale italiana che ha affrontato la Francia a Thoiry il 31 agosto e 1 settembre 1991. In piedi, da sinistra: Pezzi, Da Costa, Bonapace, Amati, Conti e Braschi. Seduti: Crisanti, Quaranta, Jayarajah (cap), Boni e Monterno

Francis Alphonsus Jayarajah, an all round athlete from St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, simply followed his passion for life and sports. In 1984, Jayarajah who studied at the University of Rome and worked for Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN in Rome, captained the first Italian National Team that toured UK. He captained the National team every year thereafter until 1992.

Today, Italy is one of the leading non-commonwealth cricketing nations, and has been ranked as high as number 17 in the world out of 105 playing countries.

F. A. Jayarajah is the current President of Roma Capannelle Cricket Club which is the Italy's oldest cricket club that competes in the premier league (Series A) and fields 3 adult men teams, 4 juniors and a women's team that started in 2009, which won back-to-back Series A titles in 2009 and 2010. They have over 100 playing members and have several programs aimed to introduce cricket in the Italian schools as they had been doing for the past 30 years. During the past four decades, Roma Capannelle Cricket Club has given many talented cricketers to the National team.

Message from the President of SPC Jaffna AA Ontario

Dear Patricians and Friends,

This milestone 30th Anniversary celebration of our Alumni Association makes all Patricians proud and truly happy. I am extremely delighted to write this message with true Patrician pride and great humility in a keepsake that each of you received.

Founders of this Alumni Association in 1987 showed commendable spirit and deep desire to help our Alma Mater in Jaffna. Their vision and inspiration deserves praise and appreciation. I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to all Patricians who functioned as committee members of SPC Jaffna AA, Ontario over the past 30 years. It is their valuable contribution towards the growth and achievements of our Alumni Association that have brought us to where we are today.

We continue to help our noble College in Jaffna in every way we possibly can, so that the present generation of Patricians can realize their full potential. I invite all Patricians, especially those living in North America to work with our Alumni Association in the years ahead. We look forward to the many more decades ahead of us with renewed enthusiasm and hope.

I strongly believe that Patricians of all ages and backgrounds will work together to help our Association stay focused on its primary mission of promoting fellowship among Patricians living in North America while helping our Alma Mater to reach greater heights.

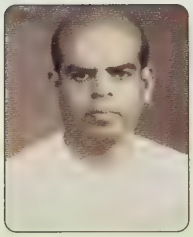
Once again, Wishing all of you a happy anniversary.

Judenorld Francis
President, SPC Jaffna AA Ontario
2016/17

IN LOVING MEMORY OF NEERVELY

LATE Mr. & Mrs. Anthonipillai

மறைவு : 02-06-2011



மறைவு: 21-06-1978

அம்மா

சந்ததமும் எமைநீர் தயையுடன் வளர்த்திட்ட - உங்கள்
தன்மையை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

தயை பொறுதி உறுதியுடன் அகிலம் புகழ்ந்த - உங்கள்
தகைமையை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

சிந்தையொரு கல்வியை சீர்பெற கற்பித்த - உங்கள்
சிறப்பினை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

சிறப்புடன் அணியாடை புட்டியே எமை அலங்காரம்
செய்ததை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

சொந்தமுறும் அன்புடையோர் மருமக்கள் உறவினர்கள்
சோகம் நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

குலம் தழைக்க பிறந்து வந்த உங்கள் பேரக்குழந்தைகளின்
குமுறல் நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

சுகக்குறைவினோடும் நீர் எமக்கெல்லாம் சொல்லும்
இன்பச் சொல்லினை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

சோகமுள்ள அனைவருமே சோபிக்க வேண்டும் என்ற உங்கள்
சொப்பணம் நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

விந்தைதரு மாணவர்க்கு ஏற்றநற் பணி புரிந்த உங்கள்
விசேடம் நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

பாசமுடன் உங்களுக்கு வேலைச் செய்த ஏவலரை உயர்த்திவிட்ட
உங்களது பண்பினை நினைந்து அழுவமோ!

அப்பா

தமிழ் தலைவன் ஜீ ஜீ இன் தத்தெடுத்த புத்திரன் நீ
தமிழகத்தின் அறிஞர்களின் பாராட்டை பெற்றவன் நீ
பட்டி முதல் தொட்டி வரை தமிழ் பட்டி மன்றம் செய்தவன் நீ
பாதியிலே இதை மறந்து பார் கடந்த மர்மம் என்ன!

பட்டத்தை நாடியோடி பக்கம் நீ சாயவில்லை
மட்டற்ற உறுதியுடன் மார்தட்டி நிற்பவனே
மலைப்பேன்ற உன் துணிவை மைந்தனுக்கு அளித்து விட்டு
மார்அடைப்பால் பாதிரவில் மறைந்து விட்ட மர்மம் என்ன!

வனப்புடனே பெற்றெடுத்த வான்மதியும் கல்வி சிறப்படனே
- பெற்றெடுத்த வளர்மதியும்
மாண்புடனே பெற்றெடுத்த மதிதயனும் செல்வ செழிப்புடனே
- பெற்றெடுத்த நிலாமதியும்
நிறைமதிப்போல் இவ்வுலகில் வாழ்ந்திடுவோர் என்று எண்ணி நீ
நீர்வேலியினை மறந்து மாய்ந்து விட்ட மர்மம் என்ன!

கன்னியர் மூவரும் உன் காலடி கட்டி அழ
தன்னிகர் இல்லா மைந்தன் தாவி விழுந்து உன் மீது அழ
உற்றவர் ஊரார் எல்லாம் உன் பேழையை சுற்றி அழ
ஊர்வலம் செல்ல நீயும் உடன்பட்ட மர்மம் என்ன!

படலையில் பன்னீரூற்றி நெடுந்தொனிப் பறை முழங்க
சுடலையில் சேர்க்கவென உன்னை தூக்கிய ஊர்வலத்தில்
உனையெனி காணோம் என்று என் தாய்யவள் மயங்கி விழ
பிஞ்சுகள் எமையும் விட்டு நீ பிரிந்ததன் மர்மம் என்ன!

ஆறென வந்த மாதம் ஆனியாம் இந்த மாதம் எமை
ஆறொனா துயரில் ஆழ்த்தி நீ ஆவியை விட்டதென்ன
நூறெனும் வயதில் வாழவ ந்த நூற்றுவர் தலைவன் நீங்கள்
மாரெனும் உள்ளம் கொண்டு மடிந்ததன் மர்மம் என்ன!

நீதியுடன் நேர்மையுடன் ஊர் புகழ வாழ்ந்துலகில்
பக்தியுடன் பரம்பொருளை சேர்ந்து அங்கு
நிதம் வாழும் என் அருமைப் பெற்றோருக்கு
அன்புடன் என் சமர்பணங்கள்!

மதிதயன் அந்தோனிப்பிள்ளை

FIDET ET LABORE

I aspire to commence my message with this caption. FAITH & LABOUR. This axiom adorns our Alma Mater's emerald and golden pennant. These magic capsules imbibed by my Patrician colleagues nudged them to establish, nourish and breed our Alumni group. Let me commend the prodigious men and women who strived to formulate this association. Nurturing a social entity through three decades on a volunteer basis is a herculean task. These brave souls conquered that plateau using these two apparatuses fed to them in their tender ages by our Alma Mater.

I was fortunate to be part of this pronounced entity from its inception. I consider it a privilege not a right. I still can picture the cold grey morning when three young men walked through my front door and persuaded me to be part of it. Never in my wildest dreams would I have contemplated that after three decades I would see the seeds planted on that day grow up to be such a vibrant union spreading its tentacles around the globe. Please accept mine and my family's congratulations.

I was humbled when my illustrious colleagues requested me to take the responsibilities of coordinating this event. I took it up for two reasons. One, I am very much indebted to my Alma Mater for all the life's largesse I possess. Second I have the advantage of knowing my team very well. They follow the caption I began my message with. FIDET ET LABORE.

MAY GOD BLESS MY ALMA MATER AND ALL OF HER PROGENIES.

Raymond Santiago
Chairman
30th Anniversary Celebration Committee

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இறைவனின் திசை மாற்ற ஏவுதலுக்கு ஆயத்தமாக
வாழ்க்கை பயணம் செய்வோம்

MAY THE PATRICIAN SEEDS OF FORMATION BEAR FRUIT ON THE CANADIAN SOIL

Dear Canadian Colleagues of my Alma Mater,
It is an honor and pleasure to be with you all and with your families at this get-together. I understand that as an OBA, you complete 30 years. My congratulations to all past presidents and office-bearers who made this association function as a proud family on the Canadian soil as well as a helping hand for the alma mater.

From 1983 onwards, when large number of Patricians fled the country, Canada welcomed us and gave us a new home with full opportunities for all to live, work and grow. With English as our second language, we quickly integrated into the Canadian pluralistic society and started contributing actively to the welfare of the Canadian public.

In my long contact with you all in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and with the government in Ottawa, I can gratefully acknowledge the help given by the Canadian governments locally as well as on the international stage to help us in our Tamil struggle.

We who are gathered here are beneficiaries of a good catholic education at the College. I wish that the seeds of our own formation to love and serve the larger society, continue to bear fruit in your succeeding generations.

God bless you all
A disciple of Jesus &
Servant of the People
S.J.Emmanuel

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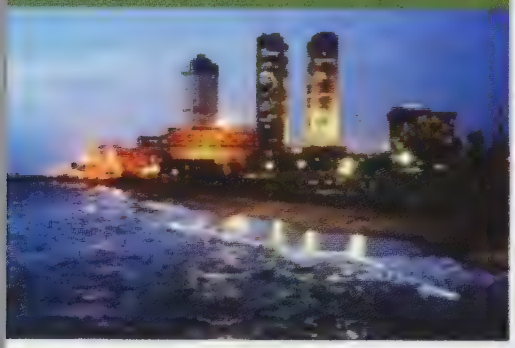

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Empowerment of Younger Generation Role of OBAs in the Diaspora

Dr.S.Poologanathan

MBBS LRCP MRCS (Eng) FRCS (Ed) DIMC (Ed) FRCGP, FRACGP

It gives me great pleasure extending my heartiest congratulations to OBA-SPC Jaffna -Canada (OSJC) at your thirty years of glorious service. The Canada OBA has been at the forefront in serving the children and staff of our Alma Mater.

As a family physician with experience in UK, Australia and Sri Lanka, I wish to share my thoughts on how we Patricians in the Diaspora could contribute to the betterment of our school children. Those children who grew up in an environment, facing many war related problems, continue to face many post-war challenges in different forms, ranging from poverty, drugs, alcohol, child abuse and other social ills.

We, of the Diaspora, have a significant part to play in improving the physical, psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing of the people in our ancestral homeland as well as connecting the younger generations growing up, apart.

In order to achieve this, we can do the following

- Encourage visits by the younger generation with families and friends to the school to improve networking and exchange of experiences.
- Invest in small or big livelihood projects in the school's catchment to create employment to alleviate poverty.
- Support improving the school infrastructure, introducing modern methods and equipment for students to gain skills for the globalised labour market.
- Upgrade the sports and recreational facilities to give our youth the experience of good physical and mental health environment.
- Broaden the scope of education by offering alternate career paths to the traditional choices of medicine, engineering, accountancy etc. Upcoming technical school is the way forward.
- Organise extra-curricular activities to develop skills in communication, leadership, IT etc, in partnership with non-governmental sectors.
- Promote spiritual education to instil social responsibility, ethics, tolerance and other life virtues.

The global OBAs should have a combined strategic plan for action to pool resources in order to achieve the above goals. The Canadian Patricians are fortunate to be in a country where diversity is respected and celebrated. You are in a good position to lead in this respect.

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Gary Anandasangaree

Member of Parliament
Scarborough—Rouge Park

June 24, 2017

Greetings from Gary Anandasangaree

Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge Park, Toronto, Canada

It is my great pleasure to congratulate St. Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association for celebrating their 30th anniversary.

The success of the St. Patrick's College Jaffna cannot only be measured by the count of medals or their number of graduates. The true testament of their success is you, the alumni. Each time you create a community initiative, develop funds for the school or become a trailblazer overseas, such an achievement enhances the distinction that is St Patrick's College.

30 years of service marks a significant milestone. I have the utmost confidence that your association will continue to do great work in youth empowerment by emphasizing the importance of education as the universal equalizer.

I wish to thank all the alumni, families and volunteers for their support in marking this milestone 30th anniversary.

Yours very truly,

Gary Anandasangaree
Member of Parliament
Scarborough-Rouge Park

Ottawa

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Message from the General Secretary

Dear Patricians and Friends,

As the General Secretary of the Alumni Association, I consider it an honor to write this message on the occasion of our 30th Anniversary celebration. While we take a moment to pause, reflect, and to consider how we have spent our time being members of the Association during the past 30 years, we realize what an amazing and memorable experience it has been. We have all contributed in many ways to the success of our Alma Mater, and her achievements are a result of the excellent work that we, as the alumni, carry out every day.

On this milestone occasion, we would like to recognize and acknowledge the enthusiasm and hard work of the founding members, the support of the loyal Patricians in North America, and the excellent work of successive management committees and their families. It is indeed a time to celebrate!

With thirty years behind us, I am sure a bright future is ahead as we all continue to deepen our connection to the College to explore the ways to give back to the school and our community.

I would like to conclude with this quote for all our Patrician members: "If you believe you are right, but still people criticize you, hurt you shout at you, don't bother. Just remember that in every game, only audience makes noise not players. Be a player. Believe in yourself and do the best".

Good Luck and best wishes.

Ajith Pillainayagam
General Secretary
SPC Jaffna AA Ontario
2016/2017

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Marina Selvaratnam

June 12, 2017

St Patrick's College Jaffna AA
Ontario - Canada

Dear Patricians and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to send warm felicitations to the alumni of St. Patrick's college Jaffna, as you celebrate the 30 year anniversary of your organization coming together here in Canada.

This message comes to you from the current committee members of Jaffna Holy Family Convent Alumni Association in Canada and our members.

Many of you are also our fathers, brothers, husbands, sons and friends, as such, we hold you in high regard. There is a long history of fellowship among Familians and Patricians. It continues to flourish and gain strength through mutuality of interests and values. Our first, fun-filled, 2016 joint picnic reflected our efforts in continuing that tradition.

May those shared values and interests continue to help us support our respective Alma Maters' in their endeavor to motivate and elevate the achievements of the current students. The SPC alumni here in Toronto and around the world continue to set high standards on the level of involvement and commitment to the cause; it's an inspiration to all.

Congratulations to all Patricians in Ontario - Canada on reaching this milestone and wish you much success as you move forward.

Noeline Simon,
President,
JHFC AA Canada
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Message From Colombo OBA

It is with immense pride and great pleasure that, as the President of this OBA, Alumni Association, Colombo, I write this brief felicitations and greetings to all Patricians in Canada, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary celebration.

On behalf of the Patricians living in Colombo and the Committee members of the Colombo OBA, I congratulate the President and the Committee of Management of the Canada Alumni Association, as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Past Presidents of your Alumni Association for their total commitment and support towards our beloved Alma Mater.

Even though we are thousands of miles apart, we are united in this true sense of Patricians sprit .We are today what we are mainly because of our Alma Mater.

We, Patricians are very proud of our long tradition and heritage. Therefore we should maintain this culture for long more years to come. Let us join hands together and take the best possible care of our Alma Mater and ourselves in its glory.

Let the Patricians sprit continue to glow in our midst, enriching one another in all our endeavours.

In this world of violence and crime, let us strive to forge ahead carrying our noble Patrician values and set examples for others to follow.

I finally wish all the Patricians of the Canada Alumni Association, a pleasant and enjoyable anniversary celebration, the memory of which will remain fresh in the hearts and minds of everyone for a long, long time.

Roy Nicholas
President
Colombo-OBA

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My dear fellow Patricians,

It is with great pride and honour that I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to my fraternal alumni of Canada for achieving a great milestone of thirty years. It is a remarkable accomplishment and I salute to all those who worked selflessly and tirelessly during the last thirty years to help our Alma Mater in every possible way.

We have seen rapid changes in education and social behaviour in our homeland in the recent past.

We, the patricians from home and the rest of the world, unite together to bring back our past glory where St Patrick's is seen as the forerunner in the field of education, sports and spirituality.

Together with the U.K. and all the global patricians, I wish all the Canadian patricians, families and friends to have a memorable jubilee celebration, that you truly deserve.

God Bless You All!

M C Pathmarajah

Patron
Rt. Rev Dr Justin Gnanapragasam
His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna

Vice Patron
Rev Fr. J Selvanayagam
The Rector, St. Patrick's College

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Dear Patricians

On behalf of the Patricians of Jaffna in Sydney, I like to extend our felicitation to the Canada OBA, Patricians of Jaffna – Canada, on your 30th Anniversary of coming into being. We congratulate all members of your association for keeping the Patrician spirit aflame and helping our Alma Mater in so many ways over so many years.

We are not far behind as we are also about to celebrate our 30th Anniversary and our counterpart Melbourne OBA their 25th Anniversary this year. Isn't it a fantastic feeling to note our Patricians Alumni Associations reaching such milestones and over the years fostering fellowship among Patricians globally.

Your 2017-year message for Hope, Compassion and Joy, also refers to challenging times and moments of triumphs of our Alma Mater. The current major challenge it faces among others could be the completion of the Technology Center Building by the end of this year. I am sure such global milestone celebrations would assist with the fund-raising efforts.

Our very Best Wishes for the success of your Green & Gold Gala – 30th Anniversary Celebrations. Well done Patricians of Jaffna – Canada.

Lawrence Pathinather

President

Patricians of Jaffna Sydney

Committee Members:

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St Patrick's College, Jaffna
Melbourne OBA

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It is with great pleasure that, as the President of the Melbourne OBA , I write this felicitation and greetings to all Patricians in Toronto, Canada who are proudly celebrating 30 years of existence of St Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association – Ontario.

On behalf of Patricians living in Melbourne and the Committee members of the Melbourne OBA, I wish you a very successful, enjoyable and memorable night on 24 June 2017. While we are thousands of miles apart, our thoughts are with you as fellow Patricians.

As you gather to celebrate 30 years of "coming together" in Toronto, Canada, the Patrician spirit, fame and brotherhood is well and truly alive all over the world. In our own way and in different ways, all of us contribute to the continued success of our dear Alma Mater under the patronage of St Patrick and may our efforts continue to produce Patricians whom we can all feel very proud of.

Melbourne OBA, too, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year and is planning to host many Patricians from all over the world in November 2017 to join those in Australasia in the festivities. Any Patrician in Toronto who is planning to travel to Melbourne in November is doubly welcome and is invited to the many functions being planned. We will publish more details of the proposed celebrations in our website and communicate them through other media and forums.

We raise our glasses in toast to wish the members of the Toronto OBA the best of luck, happiness, enjoyment and continued success.

William Nimalraj
President
Melbourne OBA
St Patrick's College Jaffna

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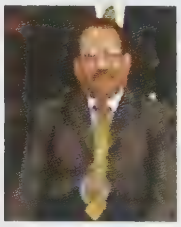

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It gives me a great pleasure to send this message as you all celebrate the 30th anniversary of the St.Patrick's college Jaffna alumni association Canada on june 2017. I wish you all members and executive committee of the association and I hope your association exists for many more years to come.

Now we are all living in different countries but we were all nurtured by the same Alma Mater. That's why we are travelling by the same route. I know well your association has helped our Alma Mater to provide the best education and best future life of the students.

I take this opportunity to wish President, executive members and all members of Canada alumni association all the very best on your 30th anniversary celebrations. May your association continue to strive for greater heights and deeper strengths.

.May God Bless you all

'Fide et Labore"

Mr.A.V.Damien

President

OBA France 08.05.2017

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St. Patrick's college, Jaffna

Old Boys Association Bergen, Norway

Greetings from Bergen

St.Patrick's College, Jaffna – Old Boys Association, Bergen, Norway

It is a great privilege for me to send this message of felicitation and best wishes from Bergen to all fellow Patricians in Ontario on this occasion of the 30year jubilee celebrations.

On behalf of the fellow Patricians living in Bergen and on behalf of the present committee, I am indeed very pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all the Patricians who belong to the Alumini Association – Ontario, on this memorable occasion.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the President and all those who have contributed to organize this jubilee celebration. A lot of hard work would have gone into this. May St.Patrick guide you and intercede for you all.

We wish you all great success during your jubilee celebrations.

May God Bless You all

Robert Dianisious Dayanandan

President

St.Patrick's College Jaffna Old Boys Association Bergen.

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Secretary : Jeyaraj Ernest
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The Gentiles
A History of Sri Lanka 1498-1833

By Agnes Padmini Thambynayagam

Publisher: AuthorHouse (October 17, 2009)
ISBN-10: 1449023517
ISBN-13: 978-1449023515

There are many markers to suggest that the impact of Portuguese and Dutch rule on the society of Sri Lanka remains very deep. However, systematic studies of the impact are rare. The purpose of this book is to show the effect of this rule in a number of related fields: the development of social institutions, the transformation of religious practices, the establishment of an educational system and the evolution of language.

This book goes against all norms of traditional teachings and beliefs. History that took centuries in the making was crystallized in a few lesser known and obscure journals and archives. Many of these archives have been ignored by previous studies. The author, a native of Sri Lanka, has assimilated a comprehensive bibliography of the literature and presents her findings to the reader. Her analysis and narrative give an insightful look at the era of Portuguese, Dutch and early British rule in Sri Lanka. The book, while controversial - perhaps even provocative at times - gives stimulus for future research in this area.

Comment from Dr. Eugene Joseph:

" When I received an email from Ferdi regarding the publication of a book I decided to order a copy, mostly out of curiosity. However, now having read the book I am really glad that I did get a copy since this book is one of the better researched and documented books on the history of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) during a given time period.

The book is extremely well researched and the list of reference provided by the author is phenomenal. The author has taken great pains to visit libraries and museums in different countries to gather original information in foreign languages and have that information translated into English by reliable translators. The information that was presented for example, ancient maps of Ceylon, pictures of various dignitaries and photographs of common friends was a delight to see and was also of excellent quality. While some of the ideas suggested by author may appear controversial, it motivates the reader to "dig" deeper and read more in the specific area. This is definitely a book worth having in all Sri Lankan homes purely for its excellent reference value." (6 February 2010)

Dr. Eugene Joseph: Research Professor, Institute of Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) / Chemical Engineering, Virginia Tech, USA & an Old Boy of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Trials and Triumphs of a Decade

First of all, congratulations to SPC - OBA Toronto and, as former Rector, I express my profound thanks for all your support - past and ongoing - to our Alma Mater. Every bit of assistance is invaluable, especially in the context of war and post-war which has mercilessly devastated our land, children and parents.

I have been given the task of writing a few lines on the trials and triumphs during my 10-year tenure as rector from July 1992 to June 2002. Our performance in the areas of sports and education are normally presented in Prize Day reports and occasional magazines. It is not my intention to write about such topics, but pen a few lines in a casual informal style about some memorable instances that might not be found in Prize Day reports or other serious articles. The overall nature of the years that unfolded are pretty well reflected in the following three visits and the remarks made.

Quite unexpectedly one day, the Deputy Director of Education (Jaffna), Mr. Sundaralingam (author of the play Abasuram) paid me a visit in the office. When I asked him what his purpose was for the visit, he replied, "I find St. Patrick's progressing in every respect, and have come to express my appreciation." Sometime later, there was another visitor from the education department, carrying a big jackfruit, Mr. Thanayya, Assistant Director of Education. He said, "When I enter the premises of St. Patrick's College, I get the feeling of entering the sacred precincts of a temple." A third unexpected visitor, Mr D.R.Arumainayagam, Assistant Director for English, (currently Administrator - Methodist Montessori Colombo) said, "I was passing by the college and could not resist coming in to commend you on your efforts to raise the standard of English and your administration." These visits and remarks succinctly speak of the dedication and hard work of the staff and students, and indeed their self-discipline.

We had our times of trials, too. It would not be an exaggeration to say that particular decade was the stormiest period in the entire history so far of our alma mater. Already under father Michael Joseph, the college had been severely battered by bombing, shelling and helicopter strafing by the Sri Lankan military. And the furniture was further damaged by 'refugees' from the neighbourhood, many of whom unfortunately had poor civic sense.

The tragic saga continued after I took over the Rectorship. The efforts to revive lawn tennis, to build up the chess club, the English polyphonic choir and the English club which met in the mornings before the school assembly to sit in groups and converse in English..... all these suffered a serious setback or were forced to be abandoned.

The worst experience was the Exodus. We were displaced twice: first in October 1995 and next in 2000 about the time of the Elephantpass battle. The school community as well as the wider Tamil community got scattered. But somehow they had to be served: education for the students and salary for the teachers. In the first instance, we identified within the Jaffna peninsula three places around which a substantial number of those who had fled from their homes were located. With the help of the education department, we were able to use the premises of the Varani Maha Vidyalayam. The other places were St Nicolas Church - Mirusuvil, and St Anthony's church - Point Pedro.

But what about those who had moved out of the peninsula into the Vanni? Surely they could not be neglected? I decided to get the assistance of Fr Jeevanathas, Prefect of Studies - middle school. Carrying the salaries of the teachers and taking our motorbike, we undertook the perilous journey across the Kombadi lagoon on January 02, 1996. Starting with Kilinochchi, we traversed the whole length and breadth of the Vanni, visiting wherever we learnt that our teachers and students had taken refuge. We

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even visited Madhu, Periyamadhu and some places in Mannar. We returned to the mainland after a week, and in those seven days we had covered 900 miles on motorbike. It had been my aim right from the start to build up the staff that would be self-motivated to deliver a dedicated service, and to form the students into men of self-discipline. They had responded commendably and deserved every care that we could give them.

I picked Fr. Jeeva to accompany me on this mission because I had no doubt at all that he would make any sacrifice for the welfare of the school. I knew he wouldn't mind the biting cold of the January mornings of Kilinochchi, the roasting midday heat of the Vanni, the choking dust of the gravel roads, or the uncertainty of a timely meal. Hats off to Fr Jeeva.

I must mention one feature about the second displacement. It is the generosity of the parents of a student from Anacotai-Manipay who offered the use of their premises. We put up 'cadjan' sheds and conducted classes there. A third trial was the new law that introduced disparity in the salary scales between government schools and private schools. Understandably, our teachers were disheartened. The principals of private schools fought for equity and the promise was made by the ministry that matters would be rectified within six months. Meanwhile to pay our teachers the equivalent salary, some generous hearts helped us with loans, since the bishop said he had no money to give us a loan of Rs.20,000 a month for six months to tide over the crisis.

To all such generous hearts who helped us in our dire straits, I remain grateful. There is one special reason why I owe a big thank you to St. Patrick's College. In August 1996, in the context of increasing enforced disappearances, I was shouldered with the daunting task of heading the Justice and Peace Commission of the Jaffna Catholic Church. It was a task that required great courage, prudence, the wisdom to know when to speak out and when to be silent, to be knowledgeable about the international human rights law and to articulate it when challenging the powers that be - none of which I possessed in any appreciable measure. What prompted me, then, to accept this responsibility in addition to my trust in God, was that I was the Rector of St. Patrick's College. The stature of my alma mater – the reputation of St. Patrick's in educational circles throughout the island – provided me with what I believed to be a protective shield: the powers that be would not dare to harm the Rector of such a great school even when challenged. So it was with faith on one hand and St. Patrick's on the other, that I plucked courage to engage in interviews, peace marches and prayer rallies, conferences at home and abroad including the UN - Geneva to expose the plight of our people, and even to confront the military on cases of arbitrary arrest, torture, rape, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing. At times these confrontations occurred in the imposing presence of high-ranking military officials in all their regalia, and the intimidating presence of their bodyguards carrying automatic rifles. I want to repeat with gratitude to the great St. Patrick's College that its image played no small part in imparting the courage and protection I needed to carry out such risky tasks.

Epilogue: How I wish I could still be in my land serving my people. But alas - because of the collusion of different kinds of politics and the several assassination attempts (from which I was miraculously saved), wise friends have advised me to stay away until more propitious times.

Rev. Fr. A.I. Bernard

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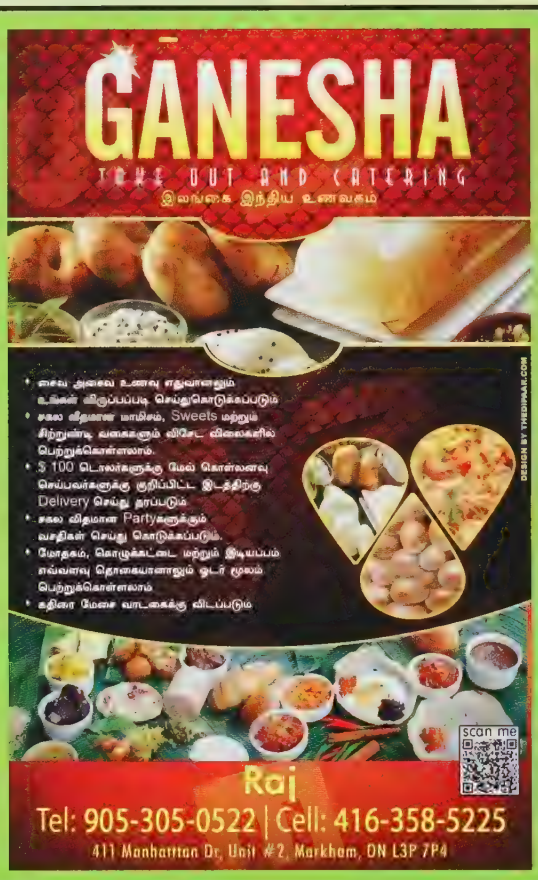
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Letter of a Missionary

Dear Patricians, friends and families,

It is indeed an honor to be asked to write some reflections to the magazine of the OBA Canada. I have already communicated with you from South Sudan. Now I am sending you my greetings and reflections from Germany.

We are living in a time of many changes. Often, the questions around faith and those faith practices that guided our lives are all questioned. The alarming decrease in the number of people who go to Church makes one feel that the world is on a decline in faith. For us Patricians, who grew up under the Motto of our Alma Mater, Faith and Labor, this situation offers a big challenge to transmit these values to the next generation living in diaspora.

Often when we talk about Faith, we think of the sources of Faith – Sacred Scripture and Traditions (in the Catholic world). Till late, to trust in our own experience was not possible and was not given importance. When Theologian Karl Rahner wrote after the Second Vatican Council "the next generation of Christians will be mystics or they will not be Christians", the underlying emphasis is that each one of us is given the possibility of experiencing God in a personal way and the way we experience is valid. This personal encounter with God is the mystical experience that Karl Rahner was talking about. Our college provided us opportunities to cherish this personal encounter with God through practice of daily prayers, celebration of the Holy Eucharist and monthly confession. If these practices have helped us to deepen our life of faith, we are obliged to pass it on to the next generation that is growing up in a very secularist, individualistic and materialistic world. There are many definitions for faith. One definition that strikes me most is "Faith means to try the impossible and to hope the impossible" ("Glauben heiße das Unmögliche versuchen und das Unmögliche hoffen".) I wish all members of OBA and your families a deepening of faith, trusting in your own faith experiences through which you have come to a communion with God and with one another.

Although there is a clear decrease in the number of "Church goers", the increase in the number of people who are involved in global solidarity as an expression of love of neighbor, those who care for the mother earth (as called by Pope Francis in Laudato Si), those who care for the justice and peace in the world, surely is heartwarming. At the end of the second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI already so prophetically reminded this reality. He told "most Christians of this generation will be seen on the streets through their commitment to global solidarity than in the pews of the churches". We learnt commitment to common good through social involvement by engaging in various charitable activities that were promoted by our college. Our children who are growing in North America and Western Europe have to be helped in their commitment to common good.

As Patricians, our task is to spread the motto of our college "Faith and Labor" through our commitment and way of life. As the missionaries from Ireland had the foresight to cultivate this spirit of faith and labor among us, we hold the torch that needs to be passed on. Amidst the declining number of Church goers, we are sent as missionaries to North America and Western Europe, to spread the values of Faith and Labor.

I wish and pray that you and members of your families will be involved in the transformation of this world according to the dream of the Kingdom that Jesus left with us. I pray that vocations to priesthood and religious life will be promoted among your children that "Faith and Labor", the motto of our college will live through them.

God Bless you.

Rev. Fr. Y. C. P. Joseph, CMF

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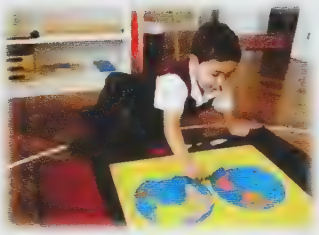

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ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE AN EARLY HISTORY

Both during the Portuguese occupation (1505 to 1658) and the Dutch occupation (1658 to1795), Catholic education in North Sri Lanka was generally confined to Junior Schools mostly housed in buildings adjoining Churches and Chapels. It must be mentioned that Catholics were subjected to discrimination and even imprisonment during the Dutch occupation, but clandestinely education thrived. The British took over in 1795 and there was freedom to put up larger schools. American and Weslyite Missions were the first to put up their schools. St. John's College came up in 1833 and Jaffna Central in 1840. Adjoining Jaffna Central, Vembadi School came up for the girls followed by Uduvil Girls School.

The concept of a fully-fledged education for the children of the Catholic Faith commenced with the arrival of the Clergy of Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1847. Rev. Fr. Semeria, a French scholar of high repute took over as Vicar General of Jaffna Diocese under the vicarage of Bishop Bettarachi .The latter passed away unexpectedly in 1850 and Fr. Semeria who had already been conferred the title of Monsignor was appointed Bishop of Jaffna Diocese. The founding of a Catholic school in which secular education of a high standard could be given was one of Bishop Semeria's priorities. He set about this task earnestly and proceeded to Europe to collect the required funds and also to bring in a couple of professional teachers. Unfortunately, however, he passed away while in Europe and Monsignor Bonjean who was functioning as Vicar General was appointed Bishop. Bishop Bonjean had the same zeal as his predecessor for furthering education and founded the 'Jaffna Catholic English School' in 1850. As it turned out, this was the forerunner to the latter day St. Patrick's College. Rev. Fr. Mroutti was its first manager and an Irishman Mr. Foy was its first principal. The first batch of teachers were Messers William Marsh an Englishman and W. Santiagupillai, G.S.Ariyanayagampillai, Xavier, Mc Donnel and Veeravaghu. Mr.Ariyanayagampillai who was highly educated later left the teaching profession and ended up as a High Court Judge in Pondichcheri, South India. Xavier became a Priest, the first Tamil to be ordained. During the next decade, more teachers were recruited including two Irishmen, Brothers Brown and Byrne. Following persistent efforts by Bishop Bonjean, the School Commission, a Government appointed body that administered all educational institutions decided to extend to the 'Jaffna Catholic English School' an annual grant which was already being granted to the American and Weslyite schools. Needless to say that this step went a long way forward in educating Catholic students. The School Commission also changed the name of the school to 'Jaffna Boys' Seminary '. In the year 1861, the School Commission instituted local examinations on the lines of the Cambridge local examinations.

It may be mentioned that only a meagre sum of Rs. 6 was levied from all students annually for the maintenance of the school and students from poor families were benefitted. In1878, an agitation was set afoot by leading Catholics in the Province for higher education. This agitation was followed by a visit to Jaffna by Rev. Fr. Somni, Visitor General of Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Fr. Somni was the son of a Protestant Clergyman and a former Civil Servant. He was converted to Catholicism and became a Priest. Following his visit to the North, a decision was made by Bishop Bonjean to improve the standard of the school and as a first step to formally change the name to 'St. Patrick's College'. in 1880. St. Patrick's College was thus formally born.

In the same year, the foundation stone for a large college hall was laid. This hall eventually turned out to be the largest in the province and perhaps in the whole island. Bishop Bonjean left Jaffna in August the same year to take up appointment as the Archbishop in Colombo and was followed by Andreu Melize.

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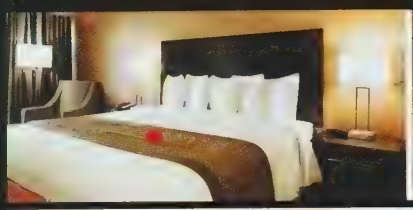

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Bishop Bonjean had spent twenty seven years in the Jaffna Diocese and contributed in no small measure to the educational development of St. Patrick's in its teen years. By 1882, the teaching staff of the school was considerably strengthened with the arrival of four European tutors, Brothers Albert Beunt, Joseph Brown, Patrick Conway and Robert Dowling. Both Convey and Fowling were outstanding teachers but died young.

In 1883, the distribution of prizes was held for the first time. In the same year a class was commenced to teach the French language. Brother J.J. Brown, then Principal passed away in 1885 after twenty-seven years of teaching. Following his death, Fr. Collin assumed duties as Principal. In the same year. Two Brothers, Dunne and Wheeler joined the College as Professors, while Fr. Murphy passed away after a long and dedicated service as a teacher. Following his death, Fr. Flanagan , a past student joined the College and became its Principal. On his death in 1889, Fr. Dunne who had become a priest by then took over as Principal. Fr. Dunne young and energetic raised the standard of the school to unprecedented levels. A good number of students entered University and brought credit to the school while many others passed out foreign examinations and obtained useful employment. He introduced Shorthand and Typing in the curriculum which helped other students to secure employment in the mercantile sector. Father Dunne also found time amidst his many and varied duties as Principal to give the world two valuable publications, a system of Shorthand for the Tamil Language and a Concise Tamil- English Dictionary. The publication on Tamil Shorthand, only 16 pages in volume was a masterpiece and revealed his knowledge of the language and the subject of Phonography. The Tamil-English dictionary was another watershed from one who was not a Tamil.

1890 also marked the Golden Jubilee of St. Patrick's as the very first school was started in 1840 under the name of ' Jaffna Catholic English School'. This event was celebrated on December 26, 1890 with a Mass of Thanksgiving said by the Bishop of Jaffna in the morning and a Service of Benediction of Blessed Sacrament in the evening during which 'Te Deum was sung.

1901 marked the retirement of a veteran teacher S.Abraham who was functioning as Headmaster. His specialty was Mathematics and many students came out with flying colors at the National Examinations. In the same year, Fr. Dunne, Principal decided to be relieved from his position as he had worked for sixteen continuous years and felt the need for a break. There were unprecedented scenes of emotion at his Farewell at which the staff, students and the general public of Jaffna joined. Fr. Dunne was succeeded by Fr. Collins. In the same year, Fr. Charles. S Mathews from Ottawa University joined the College as a Teacher and took charge of various administrative functions. He followed up as the Principal in1905. The post of Principal was changed to Rector and Fr. Mathews was its First Rector. In the same year, St. Patrick's College Old Boys Association was formed in Jaffna which was followed by another in Colombo. This year also marked the Silver Jubilee of the naming of the school as St. Patrick's College.

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முனைந்தோம் முன்னேறினோம்!!!

சீராறு செல்வங்களும் சிறக்க
சிந்தையது விந்தையிலே மயங்க
பார் புகழும் பத்திரிசியார் நண்பர்
பவித்திரமாய் சங்கமத்தை நிறுவ
ஊர் வியக்க உத்தமர்கள் கூடி
பேர் சிறந்தார் எண்பத்தி எழில் !

சிந்தையிலே உயர்ந்த சந்தியாகோவும்
வந்திருந்த நாளிலே தலைவராய் விளங்க
பிந்திய வருடங்களில் சீமான் சந்தியாப்பிள்ளை
பந்தியில் அமர்ந்து பார் புகழ நடந்தார் !

தொண்ணூறுகளில் சுரேன் வில்லியமும்
எண்ணிய கருமத்தை இனிதாக தொடர
திண்ணிய தலைமையுடன் ரவி அமிர்தன் மலர
அண்ணன் பல்தசாரும் அவர் பணியில் மிளிர்ந்தார் !

முதியோரும் மகிழ புதிதாக நிகழ்வை
மதிதயனும் மகிழ்வோடு மனமகிழ செய்தார்
புதிதான எண்ணத்தை முதியவர்கள் போற்ற
மதி போல வானத்தில் மதிதயனும் ஒளிர்ந்தார் !

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இப்பொழுதும் வியக்கும்படி இனிதாக முடித்தார் !

பேசுவதில் பொறுப்பு , பெருமையுள்ள முதிர்வு
யேசுதாசன் மனுவலின் சேவையது சிறப்பு
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காசனுப்பி கல்லூரியை அகமகிழ செய்தார் !

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புதிராக பூகோள ஒன்று கூடல் செய்த
எதிர்மனசிங்கத்தையும், சக்தி அலோசியஸையும்
விதி உள்ளவரை வித்தகர் மறக்க மாட்டோம்
அதி சிறப்பை கண்டது செபஸ்தியாம் பிள்ளையின் தலைமையில் !

அன்று பிறந்த தென்றலாக அன்றூ ராஜசிங்கம் வந்தார்
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சேயில் சிறந்த சீமான்பிள்ளை ஜெராட்டை
வாயில் வார்த்தை கொண்டு வாழ்த்தி நிறைகின்றோம்!

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A Tapestry of Woven Memories

My sincere heartfelt felicitations to St. Patrick's College Alumni Association of Ontario Canada on celebrating their 30th Anniversary in 2017.

On being asked for an article for this special occasion, I was honoured as it immediately brought up crystal clear memories of the special relationship between Jaffna Holy Family Convent and Jaffna St. Patrick's College.

I was elated to do this because not only was I a student at Jaffna Holy Family Convent, but gave back to the Convent as an English teacher for 25 years.

As the years passed, I witnessed the relationship between the two schools and its evolution.

The Familians always felt that our brother school was a pillar of strength to us - whether in the area of academics or sports.

St. Patrick's College and Holy Family Convent were two of the leading schools in the Northern Province who excelled in both the academic modality, as well as in the playing field. This was due to the amazing leadership of the Irish Priests and Nuns. The outcome of all this is that today we have highly qualified professionals working all over the world in many different areas. I also take great pride in mentioning that some of the Patricians had their basic education i.e from kindergarten to grade four at Holy Family Convent.

It was noted that every year St. Patrick's College celebrated "St. Patrick's Day" with a lot of pomp and pageantry. Although Holy Family Convent always celebrates the feast of the Holy Family, (which is on December 28th), we still enjoy celebrating "St. Patrick's Day" as if it were our own feast day. It was a special day where we had house matches and competitions. Students wore green and gold badges on their white uniforms, nuns had green and gold ribbons pinned to their robes, and the teachers wore green and gold sarees. I can still remember on "St. Patrick's Day", that no matter which direction you turned, it was a sea of green and gold.

Although we had highly qualified science teachers in the Advanced level classes in our school, we still had the privilege of two science stalwarts from SPC, who gave a boost to our grade 12 and 13 science students. Through the expertise in their subjects, the students came through with "flying colours" which put them on the map in medical and engineering faculties. They were none other than our late Mr. Sam Alfred and our dear Gnanam Master.

Now, let me move to the area of "sports".

Of course, Jaffna Holy Family Convent weren't only national champions; we were also All-Island champions in netball. We also had a basketball team and you know very well this game needed some masculine help - and who do you think we approached - nobody other than our "*siblings*" that we celebrate today. Within a couple of days, St Patrick's College sent four members to coach our team with full energy and enthusiasm. Every day, bright and early our brothers would appear. They were none other than our late Chithranjan, Bala Sathaseevam (who was a friend of the Patricians), Praba Rajasooriyar and Pathmanathan. The aforementioned Patricians even gave a helping hand with our PTI when the teams went to play in other provinces.

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In 1962 when Holy Family Convent celebrated its Centenary, St Patrick's College worked day and night to help in the setting up of the science and technological areas. It was a fantastic celebration and people came from all walks of life and were greatly impressed with the presentation.

The yearly highlight of St. Patrick's College was the big match between St. Patrick's College and Jaffna College -
Which was called the "Battle of the Golds". St. Patrick's College colours were green and gold and Jaffna College's colours were crimson and gold. This brought *great excitement* for all involved but especially for St. Patrick's *sister school.*

The students Advanced level reunions that alternated between the schools, helped the students develop their skills of socialization and open communication. They became family and have remained as such!

Last but not least, I would like to sincerely congratulate the President and the Committee members of today for working so diligently to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the St. Patrick's College Alumni Association Ontario, Canada.

In summation: St Patrick's College and Jaffna Holy Family Convent, worked together growing in strength and wisdom sharing, the knowledge and talents of many to educate the community both past and present in Jaffna.

Cheers and all the best, keep up the great work, God bless

Immaculate Nicholas

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.
Saint John Paul II

Stay committed to your decisions, but stay flexible in your approach.
Tom Robbins (American Novelist)

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Rev. Father John A. Francis
A Common Rector with a Trail to Remember

Rev. Father John A. Francis OMI was the Rector of St. Patrick's college from 1976 to 1979. He took over the mantle during one of the most turbulent and challenging years of the history of our college. His love and passion for soccer when he was Rector at St Henry's College Illavalai prior was vividly reminisced. He built a robust and committed soccer team that were persistent and unparalleled. They were on winning streak. They won many of the soccer games against St Patrick's college which were then famously called battles of the Greens and eventually wining the All Ceylon championship in 1975 under the guidance and leadership of Father Francis.

When he came to St Patrick's, he also brought the dynamics to re-kindle the energy in soccer among the Patricians, with him. There was an ecstasy and spirit in the atmosphere. The fostered expectations of winning were high, so were the stakes. While his efforts on reconstructing the soccer team were going in full force, a darker horizon was looming. He was to be faced with many challenges on a different front. Long years of bureaucratic struggles and lack of education returns due to increased parental commitments to other needs has taken a toll on the school financially.

St. Patrick's College was faced with the options of accepting government ownership or stay private. Proceeds were draining, expenses were mounting, and decision making became harder, painful and challenging. Father Francis could be vividly remembered for taking long walks with both hands back, a rosary in one and, sorrow on the other, a heart to the deprived and a mind for ways to save our college. In retrospect, Patricians are very grateful to Fr. John A. Francis, for keeping our noble college as the catholic private school under extremely difficult circumstances without compromising her academic performance or excellence in sports.

Smart, fair and shiny, he could be seen walking on the hallways with a gentle smile, his OMI pectoral cross tucked under his belt, ankle high cassock and wearing sandals. His shoulders are straight when he's in jolly mood and unbalanced when he's serious or irate. He was very witty and had special investigative techniques to probe the mischiefs of students.

Father Francis spoke to his students and teachers in perfect English to develop and guide people under his care. He was a man of tremendous faith, who was always approachable and served his people with passion and unshakable faith in god.

He may not have led us to the path of victory in soccer all the time, but he will always be recognized and appreciated for steering us away from the brink of fear and uncertainties. He will be always remembered as one of the Rectors who served the college with sincere dedication and great motivation. Patricians will always cherish the memory of this outstanding Rector of our Alma Mater.

Anton Sathy Jeyanathan

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My memories of SPC and HFC of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

A few weeks ago Anton Rajinthrakumar asked me to write a piece on my memories of the way we were. As I mused, it became abundantly obvious to me that the best way to portray the way we were to narrate a short spell in my life, as it captures the essence and in particular the innocence of the way we lived. That way of life, I am sure, most of us of that era will not only identify, but will also cherish as it shaped us to be what we are now.

In 1958, my father Ligory Francis Master, the Principal of St. Theresa Mahavidyalayam, Kilinochchi, Northern Sri Lanka, received a transfer letter from the Catholic Schools' Administration to take the assignment as the Principal of Punaihari Roman Catholic School. At this time my parents had decided to send my brother Alphonsus Jayarajah to the prestigious private school, St. Patrick's College (SPC), Jaffna. It was the first time I heard about this Catholic Private Boys School in Northern Sri Lanka. My brother was eleven years old and I was nine. My father took my brother to Jaffna on a Saturday in October 1958 to sit for the admission exam. My brother was so excited—he had been admitted to one of the exclusive private schools in Sri Lanka.

My mother Mary Regina wanted my father to ask the Catholic School administration to transfer him to Jaffna. She believed that transfer to Jaffna could help to send me to the private Girls School, Holy Family Convent. My father, who always accepted and abided by the decision of the Catholic Church administration, refused to listen to my mother's request. From the time my parents married, Amma had been packing things and moving whereever Papa was asked to move. But this time my Amma was very sad, as she had to leave her only son in the boarding school. Her only recourse was to pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus. From the moment my father said 'no', she started kneeling down and praying to Mary asking her to change the transfer offer to Jaffna.

A week later, my father received a letter from the Catholic Schools' Administrator Rev. Father Philip Ponniah stating, " Dear Francis Master, your extraordinary service to our Catholic Schools is badly needed at St. Roche's R. C. School in Jaffna. Therefore, please ignore the earlier transfer letter. We want you to resume duty as the Principal of St. Roche R. C. school from January 1959". My father brought the letter from school with a smile, patting my mother's shoulder, showing her the new transfer letter and telling her that her prayers were answered. The tears rolled down in my mother's eyes when she read Fr. Philip Ponniah's note. My Amma thanked the blessed mother of Jesus for giving her this great favor.

In December 1958, our family settled in Jaffna. The first thing that my mother did after our arrival to Jaffna was to visit the Holy Family Convent (HFC) Private School with me. Her initial goal was to get admission for me but Sr. Assumpta, the Principal of the lower school admitted my younger school going sisters Vimala and Antenet Rajani as well. When three siblings were admitted, the third child didn't have to pay school fee. In addition to school fee, my mother had also paid fee for me to take Piano lessons from the English nun Mother Colombanus.

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My brother loved sports activities at St. Patrick's College. In the evenings my brother stayed at SPC to practice athletic activities while I stayed at HFC for Piano lessons. During the weekend, my brother practiced long and high Jump in the nice sandy area he made in the front yard of our home. Children in the neighborhood gathered to see not only my brother jump but also to learn from him. Jeyadevi (the daughter of Eachchamottai Sebastiampillai Vidanaiyar and sister of Patrician Anton Wijayasundar), my classmate and friend Shanthini Mariampillai and I did very well in long jump and high jump. Unfortunately, the Holy family Convent did not have the athletic grounds and facilities to coach their students in long jump and high Jump. HFC only had Netball, Badminton and Tennis courts. At St. Patrick's College, my brother won first, second and third places for both long jump and high jump. At Chundikuli Girls' High School, Jeyadevi won Championships in both long Jump and high jump. In the upper school, I became more interested in badminton and table tennis that were coached at HFC and the Jaffna YMCA while my brother excelled in cricket and basketball at St. Patrick's College.

Even though St.Patrick's College had been our brother school, HFC girls did not get involved in any activities together with the SPC until after 1965. We, the girls, were not supposed to look at the boys, smile or talk. I always thought that it would be sinful to talk to boys. Only after I started playing badminton and table tennis, I came to know that it would be fine to talk to boys and shake hands with them when we lose or win a game. In 1967, Our Principal Rev. Sr. Josephine, who visited England and her homeland Ireland brought many changes to integrate both schools. That year, we had our first get together with St. Patrick's College. After the social event, many HFC girls began talking to SPC boys freely. The parents also accepted this integration but with a very watchful eye.

Many of our HFC old girls later married SPC boys. I married Patrician Michael Thambynayagam who is the brother of my classmate and friend Joyce (Ferdinand). The integration of both schools made students to get to know each other. The Catholic education that we received at St. Patrick's College and Holy Family Convent prepared us to overcome many hurdles in our life, particularly, in foreign countries. We, the alumni of St. Patrick's College and Holy Family Convent are united by a core set of values instilled in us by these very devoted Catholic institutions.

Agnes Padmini Thambynayagam

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.
Christopher Columbus

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A review of Salinity in Jaffna Peninsula

Jaffna peninsula residents mostly depend on ground water stored in the sub terrain of limestone. The main uses of the ground water are for drinking, domestic and agriculture purposes. Currently, this ground water has been contaminated by overuse of fertilisers for the plantation, poor sanitation and the recent oil spill from Chunnakam Power Plant.

In addition, most of lagoons fill with rain water during the winter months. In the summer, the water evaporates and sea water intrudes into the land. Thus, increasing salinity levels in agricultural lands that use these lagoons for their irrigation. This high level of saline concentration in the ground water can adversely affect the growth of most crop plants that are not tolerant to certain levels of salinity. To make matters worse, plants use the water and the salt left behind in the soil eventually begins to accumulate. Eventually, the land is not fertile for any type of crop.

This brings me to the inspiration for writing this article. In my back home- Delft, the small island had a sweet water lagoon. Prior to the Dutch arrival (i.e. 1640), farmers irrigated water to their fields from this lagoon. During the Dutch Rule, this lagoon was connected to sea for their boating entertainment. Soon after, the lagoon became salty. Even after all sea water entry points were closed with barrage, it did not improve the salt levels.

After finishing my Surveying Course in Kattubeda, I was engaged in Petroleum Corporation field work and went to Delft for Petroleum Research. I was giving alignments for their testing. One of the lines passed through the same salt lagoon. It was the rainy season and the lagoon was filled with rain water and over flowing to sea. In April, this lagoon turned dry and salt started to develop on its surfaces. This scenario made me recall the lagoon in Delft and peaked my interest.

Later on, I moved to the Middle East where I began my career as Surveyor. Over the course of 15 years as a Chief Surveyor and Quantity Surveyor,I gained a lot of information about salinity and sea water intrusion. On one project, Dubai Ruler's garden of Date Palms and other crops had not grown well. Dates Palm has a high sensitivity to saline water. To remedy the issue, the project consultant instructed our company to bury slotted pipes wrapped with a filterable cloth to prevent debris penetration and surrounded with 50 CM of 25 mm aggregate and connected with some Manholes. The water entered the manhole and diverted to sea. In another project at the Dubai International Airport, the ground level was approximately one foot above the water level. In early stages, it was a very small airport. Whenever the water levels rose, they dewater it. Following its expansion in 1987, they found the dewatering method was not efficient. So they designed a retention pond. Water collected in the pond, was diverted through stormwater to the sea. These projects further induced me and provided ideas on how I could convert the salty lagoon in my homeland back into fresh water.

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I wrote two articles on, how to convert the lagoon to its previous state. First, I recommended the construction of a sand built dam to prevent the rain water running off in to the sea. If we stored 25 cm fresh water, it can enable to recharge. During the hot summer season, water evaporated and sea water intruded into land. It's happen 50 cm above the Mean Sea level. To prevent this salt water intrusion, I recommended the slotted pipe method.

Vallukai Aru is considered to be the only natural stream in Jaffna peninsula. Vallukai Aru basin has total area 57 sq.km. Covering six district secretariats. Valukai Aru scheme consists of a main drainage that channels eight tributary drainage channels and 65 minor tanks (i.e. lakes). 160 km costal area from Vadamarachi to Elephant Pass is covered by the Indian Ocean. And no location is more than 10 km away from the coast. 16 km of Valukai Aru starts from Kurumpasiddy and ends at the Araly barrage. Sea water intrusion due to prolong negligence and improper management of existing barrages at Thondamanaru, Arali and Ariyalai caused the salinity to higher levels.

My view is salinity formation following impact can consider. These 65 minor very old tanks beds are contain inherently high levels of salt and they continue to release salt. When farmers irrigate the water from these lakes, soil becomes saline over time. Famers in Kayts use these lake beds crusts as a fertilizer to their lands. They believe it is a good fertilizer help in plants growth, such as tobacco and chilli. After using this bed all ground water wells were turned to salt water. This practice using lake beds crusts as fertilizer must stop and excess of using fertilizers also to be reduced to minimum. Another reason for salinity formation is sand excavation along the sea shore can Induce sea water intrusion. Other reason for salinity formation is salt spray. When the high waves break on the beach throwing tiny droplets salt of spray in the air and then into land .Costal area homes are affected by corrosion. It effects more than a kilometre area. Houses plastered with cement motor in these areas are disintegrated by salt spray. This sea water spray can be prevented by planting more sensitivity plants along sea shore. Our irrigation system should be modernized by adapting sprinkler system or drip irrigation method in order to minimise the water usage.

S.J. Selvanayagam

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.
Albert Einstein

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Canada Celebrates 150 Years

Happy Birthday to Canada! 2017 marks a remarkable step in Canada's history as our beloved home country turns one hundred and fifty years old. The Confederation of Canada took place on July 1, 1867, and since its establishment it has developed into the richly diverse country it is today.

Canada is home to almost 36 million people. The name 'Canada' is derived from the Aboriginal word 'kanata' meaning village or settlement, and truly does represent what Canada means to us. It means that Canada is our home and our 'settlement'. Although Canada is the second largest country in the world by area, it has a relatively small population. Its natural landscape ranges from the rainforests of British Columbia, to the Prairies of Saskatchewan, and the dry tundra of the Northern Territories. Canada also contains natural attractions such as Niagara Falls, and parts of the Rocky Mountains.

Our flag is quite distinguishable, with its bright red maple leaf in the center. Our national anthem 'O Canada, is a lyrical representation of our loyalty to our home country and our homeland. To top all of these details, Canada is known worldwide as an international peacekeeper, a fact that makes most of us Canadians proud to live here and to be a part of a country that supports world peace and harmony. However, these are simply factual details about Canada. In fact, there is a much deeper meaning to each individual regarding Canada.

Canada is a country that has and still does welcome everyone with open arms, something that unites us as Canadians. Canadians are from various ethnic backgrounds and endless numbers of stories are hidden within each individual. We are not only brought together by our similarities, but by our differences, which we have learned to respect and understand.

Canada is a country that offers us a better and brighter future. We are quite lucky to have a country as open and free as Canada is. This great country allows us as individuals to express our views and opinions, and to celebrate our culture. It is a place that allows us a great range of freedom. For many of us, Canada is a place that we love, because it has accepted us and simply given us a chance to do what we please with our lives. It has given us a choice to do what we want. In many ways Canada is the envy of the world.

Many of us came to Canada seeking a better future for our families, which is exactly what Canada has provided us with as we are given the chance to create our own futures and to build up our lives. Whatever the reason for our love of our country, in general Canada holds a special meaning within each one of us, and we have much to celebrate during this year.

This year is a reminder of what our country has achieved, as it has grown throughout the years and has blossomed into what it is today. As this year progresses, we are called to discover what this celebration means to each and every one of us, and why the country holds so much value to us. 2017 truly is a year of importance as we celebrate the birthday of both Canada and the 30th anniversary of St Patrick's College Jaffna Alumni Association of Ontario.

Antonette Pillainayagam

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THE PRIDE, POWER AND PRIVILEGE OF PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA

The Patrician history records many epoch making events that took place over the years, especially in the mid-year 1930's. In all its glory and excellence, 17 students of African descent from overseas all the way from the African Continent, arrived at St.Patrick's College Jaffna, Ceylon. They were the sons of the kings and heads of several African Villages. One of the princes was John Kibuka, 'who ran like a wind' and brought fame and credit to St. Patrick's, as 'Asia's best hurdler at that time, and his record that he set was never broken to date in Ceylon. He was popularly referred to as 'Kibuka of St. Patrick's, Jaffna by the Ceylon Press and the sporting hierarchy which considered him as well as a prospective Schoolboy 'Olympian". Why were they sent to our school, when there were so many prominent prestigious schools available to them in all other parts of the world? By the same token why would the Sinhalese parents of South and Central Provinces of Ceylon, sent their sons to our boarding school in Jaffna, when there were so many other elite & reputable schools available to them in Colombo and Kandy?

This article documents by reinforcing the enormous 'Success and Leadership' that my St. Patrick's enjoyed in the whole Island of Ceylon, if not in all of Asia, just prior to and during my era at St. Patrick's College. For starters, due to the dedicated and untiring efforts of the Rectors and staff that bore rich harvest from the very beginning, London Matriculation Examination results for the years 1932 to 1935 and 1937 were the best results of all the schools in the entire British Empire; The main reason for the Patrician attraction was the finest education and most importantly the "Character formation" of students in their formative years, that prompted the parents of these boys to boldly send them overseas to Jaffna, Ceylon, to be educated under the care of Catholic clergy. The Patrician publications 'Bottled Sunshine' and 'Shamrock' at that time, shed ample light on the academic successes and all those who read these achievements of our college and the reputation that it enjoyed in the whole Island, had no hesitation whatsoever in sending their children to our Alma Mater.

Among many an elite, prestigious and powerful schools in all of Ceylon, where did my St.Patrick's ranked? These questions came to me when I came into contact with several other leading schools in Colombo. When I started working in Colombo in a Crown Department organized by the famous P.Saravanamuttu, an avid Sportsman, a Thomian and a Senior Sterling Civil servant, who recruited leading sportsmen only. As a Junior Boss (in training to succeed my boss eventually) I came into contact with my fellow workers on a daily basis, most of whom, also held honorary positions as Secretaries of Old Boys Associations of Ceylon elite schools - Thomians, Royalists, Trinitians, Josephians, Peterites & most of them were leading sportsmen in athletics, tennis, cricket, soccer, hockey, rugby, football etc. What inspired me most was that every one of them felt so special about their Alma Maters with a very high self esteem, in representing their own schools in Colombo/Kandy. All of them were also highly influential. For instance, St.Thomas Mount Lavinia is considered to be one of the most prestigious schools in the country, founded in 1851 by Anglicans (one year after my SPC was founded in the North) and its former pupils include four former Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka. Royal College is also considered to be a leading public school in Sri Lanka and is often referred to as the the "ETON" of Sri Lanka. Two female Prime Ministers Chandrika & Srimavo Bandaranaike were educated at St.Bridget's Convent, Colombo, but were practicing Buddhists.

I also observed that these schools often gave them a psychological boost of very high esteem & personal pride in their associating their names with these schools. When I Googled for reasons , I was pleasantly surprised to find that that Royal College produced a minimum of three Prime Ministers, Thomians produced a minimum of four Prime Ministers, and St. Bridget's Convent had two Prime Ministers, Srimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaranatunge. Even a bigger chance came my way to

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study and observe the 'behavioral patterns' of the so-called 'products of Colombo's elite schools", when I moved in to live with a young family of Thomians and of Ladies College in the Flower Terrace, Colombo 7 area, of which the oldest boy was a Head Prefect of St.Thomas's – where he enjoyed the most power & privilege, only second to the Warden at St. Thomas's, to exercise discipline and promote excellence to their Alma Mater in all the opportunities & faculties that were made available to them. Being an old student of these 'Big Schools', meant that they enjoyed several privileges by way of contacts to get good things done such as securing plum jobs, and also definitely enjoyed 'favoritism' over others. Even in today's Parliament, Most of the Tamil Leaders represented either Royal College and or St.Thoma s College. Is it a reality or a 'false sense of values'? Two of the most popular Sinhalese who visited our St. Patrick's College – Hon Don Senanayake as the First Prime Minister of Ceylon was a Royalist; World's most popular Cricketer Kumar Sangakkara is an old boy of Trinity College Kandy. The perception is that both represented Sri Lanka's most privileged schools.

Very humbly stated, that my spouse is also an old girl of Ladies College Colombo and all my 'in-laws' and their relatives studied at the best institutions - Cambridge, St.Thomas ,Royal and Ladies Colleges as well. In my home country of Canada, my wife's own aunt Lady Coomaraswamy married a sterling salaried senior civil servant in Sir Velupillai Coomaraswamy, a Royalist and the very First Sri Lankan High Commissioner for Canada. His only son became a Queens Counsel from Stanford University, as well as an old boy Royalist became a Crown Attorney; another Thomian and a first cousin of hers, with his Doctorate in Nuclear Physics, became the Junior Minister of Transport, when Bob Rae became Premier of Ontario, under the NDP ticket. Many cousins also became School Principals & Teachers in Jaffna and Colombo, also as Professors, Leading Politicians, and Doctors, Directors & Company Chairmen Etc. worldwide. Naturally & instinctively, my sub-conscious started comparing these 'connections' to my own Alma Mater. And I became more and more enriched by these connections and began to recognize more of my own St. Patrick's achievements with utmost respect.

Every prospective employer from the Private or Public Sector in Ceylon respected Our College Rector's 'Character Certificate', in securing jobs. I am told that it became almost 'mandatory' that a prospective employer specifically looked for our Rector Fr.Long's Character Certificate with his certification as "This Patrician bears a good moral character" in order to secure jobs in both public and private sectors.

Thus, our Reverend Fathers Long and Mathews became the architects of my own School's greatness. The rich history tells us that ourchool was established in 1850. We had 25 Rectors of this school. Rev Fr C.S. Matthews joined the tutorial staff in 1905 and Rev Fr T M F Long joined the staff in 1920 and both subsequently became Rectors. 1905 onwards, it was Fr.Charles Mathews and then in 1936 – 1954 Fr. Timothy Long took over. The Matthews/ Long era from 1905 to l954 were the College's GOLDEN ERA. Fr Long was also instrumental and played a large part in the building of the Mathews Block & Jaffna Library. In 1954 the missionary era came to an end and Rev. Fr. S.N. Arulnesan, a past student of the College, became its first indigenous Rector (1954 to 1960).Today, it is the current dynamic Fr. Jero Selvanayagam serves as its Rector. What are the other attractions that made/make our school so special in its own way; it is the infrastructure and the intellectual capital that was created by our past Rectors, especially Fathers Mathews and Father Long

To identify more extraordinary achievements in the whole of Ceylon, my research also indicated that in every activity by any school, my College was also a leader, comparative to most of these privileged schools, even though it was located in the North. There are names far too numerous to mention. Generally, on an international scale, the College produced the best matriculations results in all of the British Empire;

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our College's old boy became the Captain of Italy's National Cricket Team; another outstanding cricketer from our College, who took the highest number of wickets in the entire cricket season as well as in the Ceylon Team selection Trials was deliberately overlooked; Another student became Mr. Ceylon in a Body building contest and was also recommended to take part in Mr. Asia Contest; in the field of education, an old boy Lawyer/Advocate became the General Secretary of the ACUT – All Ceylon Union of Teachers, a powerful lobbying body for education; another old boy Teacher was elected to be the President of the English Teachers Association; For nearly five decades a Patrician was the country is leading "Playwright" and the General Manager of Lionel Wednt Theatre – 'Crème de la crème' for Arts, Entertainments and Orchestras in all of Ceylon, this Patrician from Jaffna also ended up marrying a Principal of Ladies College Colombo 7. Among Sri Lankans, two children , whose parents are of a Patrician and Ladies College heritage, are among the leading classical musicians in Cello & Violin in North America today.

Father Long often went with his begging bowl overseas to woo the rich and famous in the west for donations, especially from his rich Irish business Magnates and came back with a bucketful of money for our schools. A massive three storied Mathews Block was built by Fr.Long, A Catholic Boarding and a non Catholic Boarding was established, followed later by a new Father Long Block was also built. As announced, Character formation in the student's is of utmost concern and the loftiest ideals in life are inculcated in the minds of the students. We also had a Private Chapel with a fulltime Sacristan and Choirmaster .We also had a Book Depot where all the schools supply books were met; a fully equipped Science Lab; Our College had d the best school Library in the North, with a full-time Librarian; a large Hall with a stage for dramas and meetings; Volley ball Court, Tennis Court, Football grounds, Cricket grounds, and large Athletic grounds.

Other Mega events were our Annual Passion Plays during Lent, which attracted the entire peninsula, for two consecutive days; Excelsior Agricultural Carnivals; Popular Wrestling matches; Science Exhibitions; Mega Shows Outstanding South Indian Film & Music Artistes. Ferdi & Sathi runs the 'InterSector', a Patrician Internet based newsletter that disseminates news instantly globally.

Above all, we have well established active Old Boys Associations around the world: Sydney, Melbourne, Colombo, Jaffna, Paris, Bergen, London, Toronto and several other Patricians mini organizations makes one of the most prestigious schools. Long live our prestigious 'Strictest Catholic School' for discipline in Sri Lanka. When Canada OBA celebrated its 25th anniversary on 2nd June 2012, we had over 650 attendees at Hiltons Hotel. This alone is a blessing to our own our good fortunes to be an old boy of one of the most prestigious educational institutions to come out of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. God Bless & long life to our St. Patrick's College and our OBA, Canada, as we celebrate our 30th anniversary today.

Alfred Arulanandam

On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock.
Thomas Jefferson

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St. Patrick's College Jaffna Made History in Canada

Old students of every college from Jaffna are achieving great things in Canada. They are striving to outdo each other to make their Alma Mater proud. Old boys of St. Patrick's College are no exception when it comes to reaching great heights. In fact, for the last 30 years, Patrician's have been among the top in countless activities in all aspects of life. As a Patrician, I am very proud of the many things we have accomplished in Canada during the last three decades. Even though there are many notable achievements, I am particularly very impressed and proud of one such achievement and I believe it is my duty to document that in this magazine.

The "Inter-Colleges Athletic Competition" for colleges from Jaffna was organized by "Jaffna Schools Association" In 1994. It was a competition for cricket, soccer, volleyball, march-past, 4x100 relay and netball. In all, twelve alumni associations participated in this event. As there were many top athletes and past captains, the competition was very intense.

Even though it was the very first inter-colleges competition, the event was well organized and successfully executed by many experienced athletes, referees, umpires and coaches. The most noteworthy and delightful aspect of this event was that St. Patrick's College alumni took first place in cricket, soccer, volleyball, march-past and 4x100 relay. Also, our sister school, Holy Family Convent – Jaffna, took the top spot in netball. It was a clean sweep by St. Patrick's and Holy Family Convent! We made history by placing first in all events we participated, despite the stiff competition we faced from other top schools from Jaffna. Indeed, winning every single event we participated in was a monumental and historic achievement. However, the fact that no other school could repeat that feat since then is a testament to the historic nature of that accomplishment. Hence, the title of my article "St. Patrick's College Jaffna Made History in Canada"

We are not one hit wonders. We continue to participate in many athletic and sporting events organized by and for alumni associations from Jaffna and we continue to win many of those events. It is extremely gratifying to win for our alma mater and let her flag fly high in the diaspora.

We owe all our success to many old boys of St. Patrick's College. Even though, there are many people who contribute in many ways, big and small, to ensure the legacy of St. Patrick's College continues, I would like to acknowledge a few Patricians who have always been there when we needed. Raju, Shanthan, Ratnakumar, Douglas, Johnson and Rony have been our staunchest supporters for a long lime. One person that deserves a special mention is Ariyaraja, who is no longer with us. He has been a pillar of support for us, on and off the field, since day one. May his soul rest in peace!

Success in education and athletics is not new to St. Patrick's College. There is no doubt that it will continue to enjoy many more successes in the future. Let us all do our part to make our alma mater proud!

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A Healthy Heart

The heart is a beautiful and complex organ. It may only be the size of our fist, but it is in our hands to care for it! It also varies from person to person so it's not advisable to compare conditions or reports. Every second there is new information emerging on the Internet, applications and social media and although it maybe tempting to follow, we need to strictly adhere to evidence based approaches and expert opinions for a healthy heart.

The heart

The heart is the most hardworking muscle in our body –pumps 4 to 5 lit of blood every minute during rest. It supplies nutrients and oxygen to all the body parts including itself. Coronary arteries surrounding the heart keep it nourished with blood.

What is heart disease?

Any defect in the anatomy or the functioning of the heart. A major disease we all worry about is coronary heart disease. Over a period of time fat deposition called plaque builds within the artery wall and the artery becomes narrow. This is called atherosclerosis. When this occurs in the coronary arteries the heart does not receive sufficient blood. This condition is called coronary heart disease or artery disease.

Myth: fat deposits in old age

Fact: it starts from the first decade of life!

What is increasingly alarming is that initially there are no clear signs or symptoms of heart disease until it reaches a critical stage.

Symptoms:

Chest pain - occurs secondarily to blockages in coronary arteries for a brief period after exertion. It is also known as angina, or shortness of breath with exertion. This happens when there is a significant blockage in the artery causing decreased blood supply to the heart muscle leading to severe chest pain, and death of heart muscle. This usually occurs with complete blockage to the arteries. A vital component of heart disease is referred pain. Referred pain occurs away from the heart but can radiate to the left arm, back and jaw and often presents with dizziness, vomiting, and profuse sweating. 25% of heart attacks may be silent, especially in diabetics and can occur between 4am to 10 am, due to higher adrenaline released in body during early morning hours.

Preventing heart disease: rule 1"Prevention is always better than cure"

What do you do if you notice any symptoms?

Call 911 and get to the nearest hospital ASAP. The patient should be given Sublingual Sorbitrate and Disprin. If there is no vomiting and possible take an ECG, remain calm, make the patient feel comfortable, avoid crowding, and provide fresh air. If you're alone and have any symptoms mentioned above don't panic. Take deep breaths, It may be possible for a conscious, responsive person to cough forcefully and repetitively to maintain enough blood flow to the brain to remain conscious for a few seconds until help arrives. Blood flow is maintained by increased pressure in the chest that occurs during forceful coughs.

The Problem!

Heart disease is the No .1 Killer disease worldwide. The incidence is more in South Asian communities and metropolitan cities. Over the past thirty years there has been a significant decline in heart disease in developed countries, due to rising health awareness and government programs. Unfortunately, there has been an alarming increase in developing countries.

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Factors:

Increase heart disease progression

-Genetic predisposition

-Poor handling of fats and metabolic syndrome (diabetes, hypertension, and obesity)

-Environmental factors

-Urbanization

-Sudden change in life style

You can't help (non-modifiable risk factors)---age, sex, race and family history

You can help (modifiable risk factors)----high cholesterol, smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, alcohol and physical inactivity, prolonged mental stress

What is cholesterol?

It's an energy molecule with a vital function in the body. It circulates in the blood and if it crosses the normal limit, it gets deposited in the arteries in the form of plaque and creates significant blockage, but there are no symptoms of an imminent threat or heart attack. "You don't have to be fat or overweight to have high cholesterol, cholesterol is not bad as some Cholesterol is also generated by our body and also all foods that contains animal fat and meat products"

Good vs Bad Cholesterol

LDL- Bad cholesterol –has the tendency to increase the risk of heart blocks, as it is the major component of plaque that blocks the arteries.

HDL -good cholesterol- can increase with exercise and also helps to carry out the bad cholesterol out of the arteries.

Obesity

Obesity is when you are 20 to 30 percent more overweight than your normal body weight. Obesity has 2 to 6 times more risk of developing heart disease; the normal waist hip ratio less than 0.95 for males and less than 0.85 for women.

Cigarette smoking: Increases blood pressure, decreases good cholesterol, damages arteries and blood cells, and increases the risk of heart attack. Cigarette smoking contains more than 4000 chemicals and 200 of them are poisonous.

Alcohol: In small amounts alcohol is beneficial but in larger quantities can add fat, calories, and raise blood pressure.

High blood pressure: Abnormal blood pressure can lead to an increased risk of heart disease and stroke. Mental stress can also cause high blood pressure, increased heart rate, and hardening of the arteries.

Diabetes

Diabetes can increase your risk of heart attack or stroke by three times. Diabetic patients mostly have deaths due to heart attacks. The risk is the same as a person who already has heart disease. The risk is multiplicative when many risk factors co-exist. Risk factors often cluster together. The majority of events arise in individuals with modest elevation of many risk factors than from marked elevation of a single risk factor.

Look before you eat

Eat a variety of fruits and vegetables every day-5 servings –they are naturally low in fat and high in vitamins and minerals and antioxidants. Eat colored vegetables and fruits. Choose variety of grain

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products and nonfat or low fat products, switch to fat free milk toned/skimmed milk. Use less fat meat—Chicken, fish, and lean cuts.

Dietary guidelines:

"It's very difficult to isolate good food from bad and isolate our taste " "Consider how to burn the calories we eat rather than worrying about what to eat and what not to? " Limit your intake of foods high in calories and low in nutrition including food and beverages like carbonated drinks, candy, junk food, and food high in saturated fat and trans fat and cholesterol.

Eat less than 6gms of salt a day. Have no more than one to two alcohol drinks a day if you are a regular drinker.

Limit /avoid:

-Try to limit foods rich in cholesterol and saturated fats.

-Egg yolk, fatty meat or organ meat (liver), butter chicken/batter fried fish!

-Milk fat: Desi ghee, butter, cheese, malai, rabri, doda, ice cream and full cream milk

-Hidden fats like bakery biscuits and patties, cakes and pastries.

-Cooking oils: the mystery of PUFA and MUFA

-Saturated fats: increases cholesterol—avoid coconut oil and ghee, palm oils.

-Monounsaturated fats (MUFA): Healthy for heart—olive oil, groundnut oil, canola oil, & mustard oil

-Polyunsaturated fats (PUFA): healthy for heart –sunflower oil, soybean oil.

-Omega 3 fatty acids fish oil is good for heart

-Every oil contains fat and the way we cook i.e. deep frying, converts the oil in to trans-fat which is not a good fat for heart. Since we can't avoid oil usage the best way to get a safer alternative is to mix oils or rotate the use of different oils.

Preventing heart disease: Rule 2: Exercise

Maintain the level of physical activity that keeps you fit and matches the calories you eat. Always focus on burning the intake of calories rather than calculating it! This will prevent and treat those at high risk as physical activity reduces incidence of obesity, increases good cholesterol, lowers the total cholesterol, and also helps to control diabetes and hypertension.

Exercise: mortality is halved in retired men who walk more than two miles a day. Regular exercise can minimize your risk of heart disease, particularly in men who walk briskly. Someone who is inactive has a greater risk of developing heart disease as someone who smokes or has high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Exercise significantly reduces the chance of stroke and diabetes. With regular exercise, blood pressure in individuals with hypertension is reduced by as much as 20mmhg.

Just walk: Complicated exercise and machines or sweating it out in the gym is not essential! Keep moving be active always –stay fit

Preventing heart disease Rule 3: If you are a smoker please stop smoking now!

Avoid any form of recreational drugs! "If it's a Risk Don't Risk it " The risk of heart attack and stroke decreases within 24 hours of quitting! Within one year of quitting, the risk of heart disease decreases significantly and in 2 years it reaches a level equivalent to nonsmokers. Smell and taste improves within days.

Rule 4: know your number-not the mobile number

All adults >20yrs must get tested, if normal test again after 5 years. If elevated work towards normalizing with life style modification and drugs as advised by a doctor. "The only thing worse than finding out

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that you have one of these conditions is.... Not finding out that you have it!" Desirable total cholesterol (<200mg/dl) and HDL (>40mg/dl) and LDL (< 100mg/dl) triglycerides (<150mg/dl) , no need to calculate just make sure that it's in the normal range and take doctors' advice. Get the level tested routinely and keep them under control. 10% reduction in blood cholesterol can lead to 20 to 30 % decline in heart disease deaths.

Controlling blood pressure:

Adults should have their blood pressure checked at least once every two years, as there are no symptoms to tell you if you have elevated blood pressure, -optimal level would be 120/80

If high: Modify your life style –Diet, weight and exercise, and salt restriction. Adhere to prescribed medication without fail to decrease chances of getting heart disease-do not stop your medicine without consulting your doctor even if it's normal. Avoid stress.

Controlling Blood sugar:

All adults should have their blood sugars checked regularly, as there are no early symptoms of diabetes. Normal blood sugar: fasting <108mg/dl and post meals <140mg/dl

If high –Modify your life style-diet, weight and exercise, Adhere to prescribed medication without fail to decrease chances of getting heart disease-do not stop your medicine without consulting your doctor even if blood sugar is normal.

Managing stress: Stress also plays a key role in some patients as it increases blood pressure and heart rate; more confusion over medications and heart disease causes mental stress leading to anxiety. Trust the doctor and leave it to experts as they have evidence based practice and plan of care.

Secondary prevention: Screening all family members with significant family history is better way to avoid heart disease, Prophylactic aspirin and statins as per doctors' advice is best to avoid heart diseases. Meditation and yoga are advisable as they have beneficial effects, especially in stress management.

A positive attitude and happiness is the key for a healthy heart.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with heart disease: Don't be disheartened science has made significant progress, stay positive just monitor risk factors much more aggressively, in addition to your heart –health these measures are sure to enhance your appearance! Eat healthy, walk regularly, keep your weight under control, quit smoking or any form of tobacco immediately, appropriate diet, cardiac rehabilitation and adhere to your medicines and listen to your doctor **"Don't wait for a heart attack to take an action! Don't wait for a second chance!"**

"Heart disease is often avoidable following a healthy heart life style doesn't have to be complicated and it doesn't mean you need to live a life of self-deprivation instead we can find ways to incorporate heart-healthy habits in to our life style and we may well enjoy a healthier life for years to come"

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Generations at a glance

Why a big fuss about Generations?

It's fair to state at the outset that from a blue-chip multinational corporation to a small not-for-profit organization, every industry faces tough generational questions, such as how do we prepare the next generation to carry on with the vision and mission of the organization? How do we get the next generation to buy our products? What's the best way to hire and retain competent Millennials and Generation Z workers? And how do we survive in the tough and crowded market?

Extended family households too face pressing generational questions. The generations are different because of their life experiences and each generation's perspective is important, credible and relevant to them. Generational differences are challenging leaders and organizations in unprecedented ways. This ranges from communication and management across generations to marketing and market share. What worked ten years ago can completely fail with Millennials or Gen Z today.

What are the primary Generations?

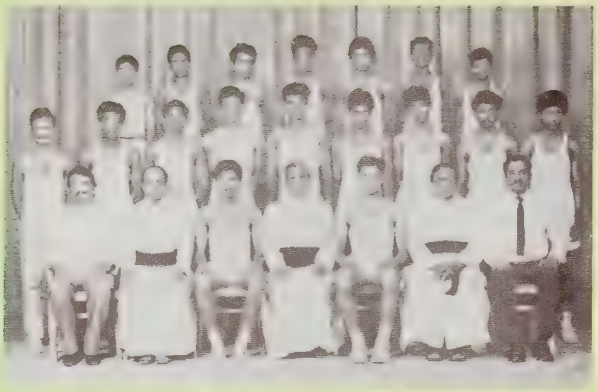
Presently, six generations make up our society in many parts of the world. Each group has its own distinct characteristics, values, and attitudes.

GI Generation: Born1901 to 1926. This generation is naturally the smallest that is living in our societies because of their advanced age. These are children of the WWI and fighters in WWII and survived the Great Depression. Most of them grew up without conveniences like refrigerators, electricity and air conditioning and back in their adulthood not even imagined the modern means of transport, wireless communication, computers and cyber world. They were also the generation that remembers life without radio, TV, and airplanes. Strongly interested in personal morality and near-absolute standards of right and wrong. Avoided debt and bought only with cash they saved. Sometimes this generation is called the Greatest Generation.

Traditionalists or Silent Generation: Born 1927 to 1945. This generation lived through the Depression and World War II. They watched their parents make tremendous sacrifices and those tough times, and as a result, they were shaped by their parents' loyalty and commitment to family, traditions and work ethic. Generally, for this generation, marriage is for life, divorce and having children out of wedlock were not accepted. Retirement means to sit in a rocking chair and live your final years in peace. It is important for our society and firms to respect their expertise and experience by utilizing them in mentoring and focus on transfer of knowledge. This generations wants to leave a meaningful legacy – their experiences, values, knowledge and wisdom.

Baby Boomers: Born 1946 to 1964. Boomers are the first generation to actively declare a higher priority for work over personal life. They generally distrust authority and large systems. This generation is responsible for the "Me Culture", with its pursuit of personal gratification, which often shows up as a sense of entitlement in today's work force. Even though their mothers were generally housewives, responsible for all child rearing, women of this generation began working outside the home in record numbers, thereby changing the societies as this was the first generation to have their

Athletic Team 1988



1st XI Soccer Team 1988

1st XI Cricket Team 1994

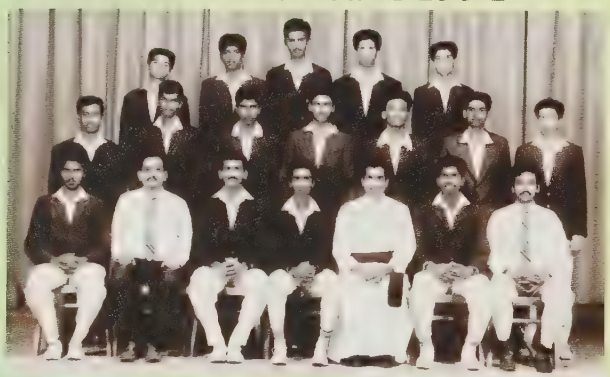
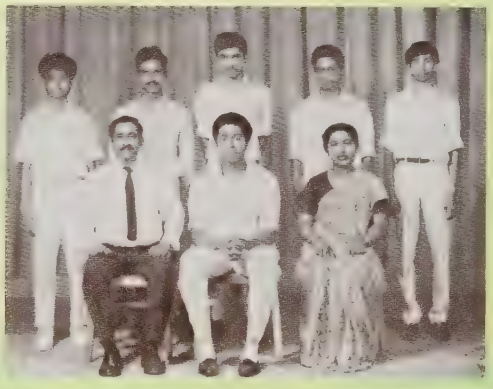
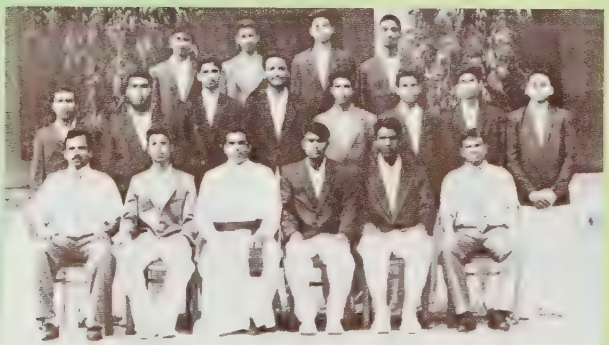
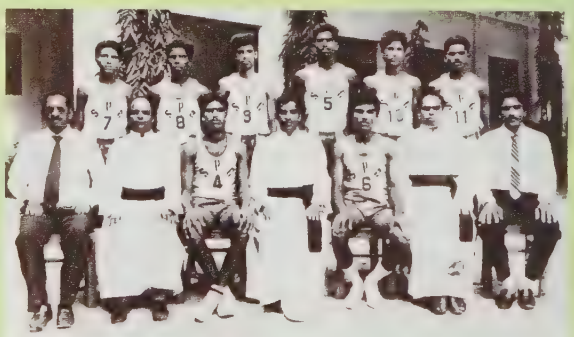


Table Tennis Team - 1988

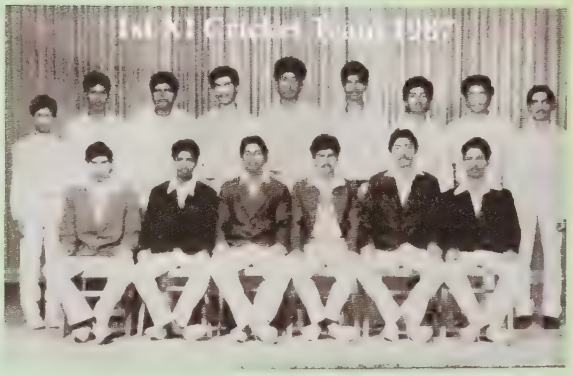


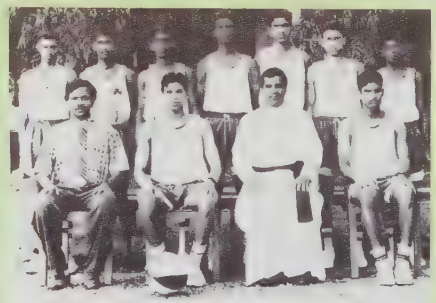


Under 17 Cricket Team 1998
I.S.C.A. Champions



Under 19 Volley Ball Team 1993
Jaffna Dist. Champions





Under 19 Basket ball Team - 1999
Runners up at Jaffna Dist. Tournament

own children raised in a two-income household where mom was not omnipresent. This is the first TV generation, and a first divorce generation, where divorce was beginning to be accepted as a tolerable reality. They are the first generation to use the word "retirement" to mean being able to enjoy life after the children have left home. Instead of sitting in a rocking chair, they go skydiving, exercise and take up hobbies, which increases their longevity.

Generation X: Born 1965 to 1976. This generation was born in a time of declining population growth in many parts of the globe. This generation is often referred to as latch-key-kids who would go home from school to an empty house. Parents were career-driven or divorced, and kids were isolated. Raised in the transition phase of written based knowledge to digital knowledge archives; most remember being in school without computers and then after the introduction of computers in middle school or high school. However, in the post-downsizing environment of the workplace, Gen Xers are perceived as very adaptive to job instability. According to studies, this generation averages more than 7 career changes in their lifetime; it was not normal to work for a company for life, unlike previous generations. Late to marry and often after cohabitations and quick to divorce too. Gen Xers are sometimes considered the slacker generation; however, they naturally question authority and are responsible for creating the work/life balance concept.

Millennials or Gen Y: Born 1977 to 1995.This is the first global-centric generation, having come to age during rapid growth of the internet and massive technological advancements. They grew up during scary times – middle east war, 9/11, global terrorism and school shootings. This generation is also known as "The 9/11 Generation" and "Echo Boomers". Because of childhood events, Gen Ys primary concern is personal safety. Gen Ys are children of "helicopter" parents, who have hovered over, protected and coached them since birth. Millennials are the most technological savvy generation, being the first generation to use email, instant messaging, and cell phones since childhood. In many countries, they have become the largest generation in the workforce and becoming the fastest-growing customers in the marketplace. Also, this generation is referred as "entitled" generation as they are the children of Baby Boomers and the younger siblings of Gen X. Because Millennials have grown up highly structured, they find time management challenging so key to working with them effectively requires clear goals, specific deadlines and setting priorities. Prefer digital literacy as they grew up in a digital environment. They get all their information and most of their socialization from the Internet. With unlimited access to information, Gen Ys tend to be assertive with strong views and envision the world as a 24/7 place that requires fast and immediate processing to produce quick results.

iGen, Gen Z or Centennials: Born 1996 and later. This is the newest generation in our societies. They have never known a world without computers and cell phone. As children reach the age of four and five, old enough to play on the computer, they become less interested in toys and begin to desire electronics such as cell phones and video games. This generation knows what they want and they are over saturated with brands and labels. From smart cars to space tourism could be just a normal thing for this generation. How present society and societal values impact this generation is yet to be seen. By the same token, how this newest generation will impact the next generation and make the world a fair and better place for all requires more research and time.

1972
Ayer : Mathithayan
Bridegroom: Godfrey
Bride: Ernest

1973
Ballet Dance
1st Time in Sri Lanka
by a Boys School.
Main Dancer: Franklin Gnanapragasam

25th Anniversary Celebration

A Patrician's perspective on Generations

Patricians should take special pride on the fact that our school was established back in 1850 in Jaffna, pre-dating all the present living generations. Each generation of Patricians brought fame and name to their Alma Mater. Within the portals of our school as well as outside, Patricians believe that it's important for different generations to work together for the common good of the society. Each generation of Patricians had responded to the challenges of the time - whether it was single - official language policy of the rulers, discrimination in higher education opportunities or profiling the entire community based on ethnicity, remarkably well strongly believing in the motto of our college "FIDE ET LABORE - By Faith and hard work". Lately, the war spanning nearly 3 decades in our ancestral homeland took a profound toll on the lives and livelihoods of the people of multiple generations. It is critically important especially for the war-affected people of all generations to collectively believe in the transformative power of education and to work in close partnership transcending generational differences.

Our Alumni Associations across the globe consist of members from multiple generations. We see generational differences as a tremendous source of strength, by the fact that each generation think act, and value things differently. As Patricians, we take great pride in understanding and respecting the older generation and at the same time striving harder to prepare a better future for the next generation. Organizations in which Patricians play a key role must create a respectful, open and inclusive environment, where people of all ages can share who they are without fear of being judged or sidelined.

Conclusion

We are living in a rapidly changing and increasingly interdependent world where people of different ages live and work together. It is imperative to know that every human being is unique. However, looking at people through a generational lens offers useful predictability for those trying to reach, inform or persuade a large cross-section of a population. The key trends like Parenting, Technology and Economics will continue to shape generations.

The study on understanding Generations will surely continue to evolve, and let's hope that this complex, but important topic values all people and keeps them productive regardless of age. A great way to get people to work together across the generations is to provide them with opportunity to educate each other about each generation's own history, characteristics, challenges, milestone events, societal values, attitudes and norms. By showcasing the achievements of each generation and promoting deeper understanding and respect for each other will make this world more livable and likeable.

Anton Xavier Rajinthrakumar

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History of St. Patrick's college Jaffna Alumni Association Ontario Canada

A Dream Comes True:

The Eminence and Eloquence of the Founder Members

St. Patrick's College Jaffna- Alumni Association Ontario came into reality, thanks to the farsightedness and sagaciousness of three eminent Patricians in Toronto, namely Mr. Mathithayan Anthonipillai, Mr. Ravi Amirthavasagam and the late Mr. Bernard Selvanayagam. The origin and birth of the Association was a dream come true, in the year 1987 in Toronto, Canada to the three of us who were then living in Toronto. We also take great pride in affirming that we were the first ever Sri Lankan Schools' Alumni Association to be formed in Canada and for that matter the forerunners to the birth of similar Associations of Jaffna-based Schools and Colleges in Canada.

Mathithayan Anthonipillai

Ravi Amirthavasagam

Late Mr. Bernard Selvanayagam

This historical achievement and honor belong not only to the three Founder-Fathers who gave birth to this Association by their untiring efforts and efficiency but it must also be happily shared by the Patrician family both young and old who consider our College as their Alma Mater. Our main objective in founding this Association is to promote goodwill, solidarity, fellowship and lasting camaraderie amongst all former students of the College who have chosen Canada as their new home. Other equally important objectives are: to support our Alma Mater in the fields of education, intellectual formation, sports and games as well as to provide a forum to the former students and their families to meet and socialize and to strengthen the inter-familial, social and personal bonds of our personal history, friendship, cordiality and companionship.

As we look back to the past thirty years, the unforgettable, affable and amiable qualities of the person of our very dear friend the Late Mr. Bernard Selvanayagam looms large in our minds and hearts. He was called by his Creator at a tender age, on the 16th of June 1988 due to a tragic accident. Today he would have leapt with unbridled and triumphant joy to see the growth of our Association over the past 30 years. May he rest in the joy of God's Peace.

Early History of the Association

During the early days of our life in Canada, as we were slowly beginning to settle down in this magnificent country called Canada, the "True North Strong and Free". The three of us would meet after our days' work during the weekends at our friend Bernard's apartment over a couple of light drinks and dinner. Almost at every meeting we would recall the fun and folly of our school days and our friends who were now scattered across the globe. Many times we would reminisce about the standard of education and the high quality of games and sports at school, at times comparing it with the other schools in Jaffna.

In many of our conversations we entertained the idea of starting a formal organization or club to call together all former students (Patricians) in one place and to have a social function occasionally. We also felt that we could

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harness some way of supporting our Alma Mater. One day when we were seriously discussing about what name we should give to the Association or a Club, Mr. Bernard Selvanayagam said "Why don't we call it the Association as "St. Patrick's College Jaffna –Alumni Association." All three of us were truly excited by the proposed name and we cheerfully agreed to name it so.

On the next weekend when we met we were discussing about whom we can meet to get ideas and the right direction to proceed because at that time all of us were bachelor young men in our early 20s. A few names came to mind but of those, the three of us agreed on Mr. Raymond Santiago, a popular Patrician sportsman in Jaffna and a very committed social activist as our best choice.

Raymond Santiago

We called him to fix an appointment over the next weekend. When we called, Raymond himself took the phone and greeted us. We asked for an appointment with him. We told him we want to have an informal social visit to speak about our College. He agreed and gave us an appointment on one Sunday at 11 am. We met Mr. Santiago and told him of what we were envisaging. He was happy but he said we can't form an Association with four individuals and advised us to go round getting more Patricians involved. We met him again on the next weekend at the same time but this meeting went longer than we had planned, almost an hour or more and at the end of the meeting Mr. Santiago's wife,

Mrs. Saro came and invited us for lunch. We had a delicious lunch and thanked our hosts and returned home. A week later again we met Mr. Santiago, this time our numbers have grown into a lucky seven, the new additions were, **Mr. Joseph Gnanasingam, Mr. Kandiah Karunaharan, Mr. Joe Swampillai and Mr. N. Gunarajasingam.** Mr. Raymond gave us all the necessary advice and ideas and promised us the fullest support.

Joseph Gnanasingam

Joe Swampillai

Kandiah Karunaharan

N. Gunarajasingam

We now began gathering other Patricians living in Canada and formed the Association at which we unanimously elected Mr. Raymond Santiago as the President. We should acknowledge here, the help and support given by our Familiar volunteers especially the late **Mrs. Carmelita Patrick, Mrs. Francisca Jeganathan, Miss Dhayani Jeganathan and Miss Sherin Thambinayagam**.

Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph (former Rector of our college) gave us exceptional encouragement and support. He sent us a letter reassuring us of his support and we are happy to print that letter in this book as a historical document.

Best Wishes to

St. Patrick's College

O.B.A Toronto

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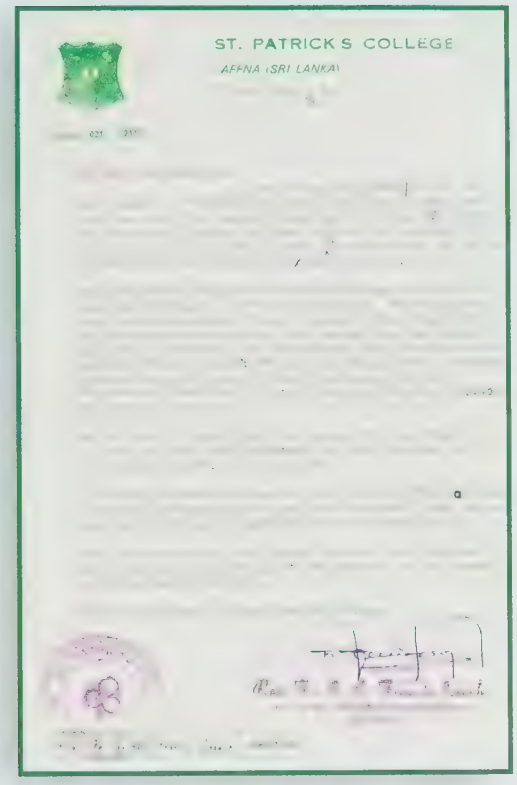
From - Gregory Joseph Family (USA)

Eugene, Enakshi (Ena) & Hyacinth (HG)

In loving memory of

Gregory Joseph


ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE
JAFFNA (SRI LANKA)

Our College was then going through difficult times with untold hardships caused by the brutal civil war in our ancestral home land in Sri Lanka. Many of us felt that we must come together and provide the moral and financial support to our Rector of St. Patrick's College as this was so urgently needed during those turbulent days of death and destruction.

Mr. Raymond Santiago who took over the Association as President contributed his charisma and stamina to build up our Association. He was the chief architect and back bone of our Association. From that time onward he has been an integral part of the Association holding offices as President, Vice President or a committee member. His support and efficiency are unparalleled.

With the influx of large numbers of Tamils from the North of Sri Lankly pouring into Canada in the subsequent years our membership steadily increased and formalized our Association with an official constitution as membership increased year after year.

As the situation in our homelands went from bad to worse, we felt the need to support our College with substantial funds. We organized at least two major functions per year, one to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the other was our annual Christmas dinner dance. These celebrations provided the forum to collect funds from our Patrician friends to support our College and to disseminate the news about College.

St. Patrick's Day
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PAST PRESIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Mr. Raymond Santiago (1987-1989) (1990- 1993) (2012 -2014)

He is a great personality, an all-round athlete. In the year 1987 our Association chose him as our First President. He was unanimously elected by our association members and he undoubtedly deserves to be honored as one of the best Presidents. We are proud to say that it was during his time as President the Patrick's day was celebrated for the first time in Toronto on March 17th in the year 1998 at Jaffna Restaurant, a popular Diner at that time. A dinner dance which was first introduced by Mr. Raymond Santiago was held and that was a grand success. It gave the president a sense of accomplishment.

The first time that is 30 years ago, THE PATRICIAN magazine was published. Mr.Ravi Amirthavasagam, Mathithayan Antonipillai, Gnanasingam Thuraisigam and Joe Swampillai also took part in editing and publishing the magazine to record our accomplishments and achievements as a one year old infant organization. Under Mr. Raymond presidency we joined with our sister school, Holy Family Convent Jaffna he brought the members of both schools together for a summer picnic for first time. It was a grand success. Due to popular demand, Mr. Santiago served for three different terms as the President of our Association.

During his period, an old student of our college, Rev. **Fr. Rataplan, OMI**, a well-known Tamil Catholic Priest was living in Ottawa. Mr. Raymond invited him on behalf of the Association for his Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee and he organized a grand celebration with our members and their families after the Holy Mass celebrated by him. After the Mass he thanked all the members for honoring this priest and Fr. Rataplan in turn blessed us invoking a long and stable life for our Association. We are always thankful to Holy Family Convent (HFC) Old girls Association and especially to Late Mrs. Carmelita Patrick for gracing the occasion and for working very hard to make it a throbbing success in the early days of our Association.

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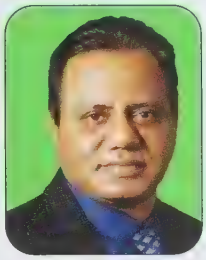
Albert Santiapillai (1988-1990)

He should be honored for registering our Association and for attending to all legal matters pertaining to the Registration during his tenure as President. As a retired teacher of our College, he advised us and constantly emphasized that all the members should go by the laws of Canada and obtained the consent of all the members to draft a constitution for our Alumni Association .With the guidance and support of Mr. Raymond and Mr. Vijeakumar our association was officially registered with a constitution. A person exhibiting superlative allegiance to our Alma Mater where is spent most of his life as a student and then as a teacher. Never misses any Alumni functions irrespective of any personal difficulties. He is an inspiration to all of us and a prime example of a loyal Patrician.

His period as President is also significant because many new arrivals some of whom were great old Patricians were brought into the Association and they infused new vigor and vitality to our Association. It was during his period, a dinner dance and grand Christmas gala was very successfully organized.

- **Mr. Suren William (1993-1995)**
- **Mr. Ravi Amirthavasagam, (1995)**
- **Mr. Emanuel Balthasar. (1995-1997)**

Suren William



Ravi Amirthavasagam

Emanuel Balthasar

During their time of office as Presidents our country was going through the turmoil of war and Interminable conflicts. Jaffna went through catastrophic times and the College could not function regularly due to periodic displacements. In Canada at least they were able have some annual events thanks to the efforts of these precedent who held the office. Our Annual gatherings were organized by them with the same spirit of vibrancy and vigor. Our Presidents had to work really hard to keep the Association active and agile as the mood of many of our members was in distress and despair due to the sad events unfolding in our motherland. In retrospect we feel very thankful to them as many of our members then commented that our Presidents really did a great job in keeping our Association going amidst these calamities. They all deserve our very special appreciation and admiration.

Mr. Mathithayan Anthonipillai (1997 -1999)

He is a highly motivated, very talented, extremely efficient person both in theory and practice in several fields from management to administration, from science to technology, and literature to history. As one of the founder members of the Association, his emotions and feelings for the Association are beyond measure. During his office as President, one of the most remarkable projects he undertook was the scholarly publication of a book in the form of a magazine on behalf of our Association.

Congradulations

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This book contains an amazing record of the research outcomes, intellectual contributions, humanitarian services, and the internationally acknowledged scholarly works published to promote the Tamil language, history, culture and literature by the Patrician Tamil Catholic Scholar-Priests beginning from Nallur Swami Gnanapragasar, Thani Nayagam Adikal, , Fr. H.S. David, known in Tamil Research as Thaveethu Adikal, the saintly-ascetic priest Fr. B.A. Thomas, founder of the Rosarian Congregation in Tholagatty and Fr. Joseph Chandrakanthan the Founding Professor and Head of the Department of Christian Studies at the University of Jaffna.

This book was launched ceremonially by Sri Lanka's the former Member of Parliament, the late Mr. Soosaithasan. Having analyzed the book meticulously he was highly impressed and commended the book as a land mark publication and service to both Catholicism and Tamil. Many Saiva Tamil scholars and intellectuals lauded this publication and expressed their admiration to our Association for bringing out such a book. Many persons helped the president in the production and launch of this book Kavingnar Ravi Amirthavasagam and Gnanasingam Thurisingam deserve our special appreciation for their hard work and assistance in the grand success of this publication.

For first time during his tenure as President, our Association made history by organizing a seniors' party which continues to this day. As President, he happily accepted the suggestion proposed by **Mr. Jeganathan, Mr.R.L Xavier, X.F.Xavier , Late Mr. Ratnasingam and Mr. X. R. Francis** to have an Annual get-together for our Seniors and he readily responded by making it a reality. **The credit of the idea certainly goes to these five gentlemen.**

Late Mr. Jeganathan

Mr.R.L Xavier

Mr. X. R. Francis

Late Mr. A.Ratnasingam

It was at this function our first President Mr. Raymond Santiago was called to the stage by Mr. Mathithayan Anthonipillai amidst thunderous applause, and was honored with the Award of the Title **"EVER GREEN PATRICIAN".** Since then, Mr. Raymond Santiago is called EVER GREEN PATRICIAN. The President frequently writes poetry and articles in Tamil and publishes them on behalf of our Association to promote its name, activities and achievements.

It must be placed on historical records that it was during Math's time as President the LIFE Membership was introduced which is functioning very effectively and successfully up to now. Besides to give a great impetus to the Patrician tradition of Sports and games especially cricket, that during his period as President he encouraged and initiated The St. Patrick's College Cricket club that is run **by Kingsley, Shanthan, A.J Ratnakumar and Rajkumar.** The President gave all the necessary support and now it is functioning very efficiently and smoothly. These three persons deserve to be honored especially for organizing in Canada for the very first time the "BATTLE OF THE GOLDS' Cricket match which was telecast with players' interviews coordinated by Kingsly and Santhan.

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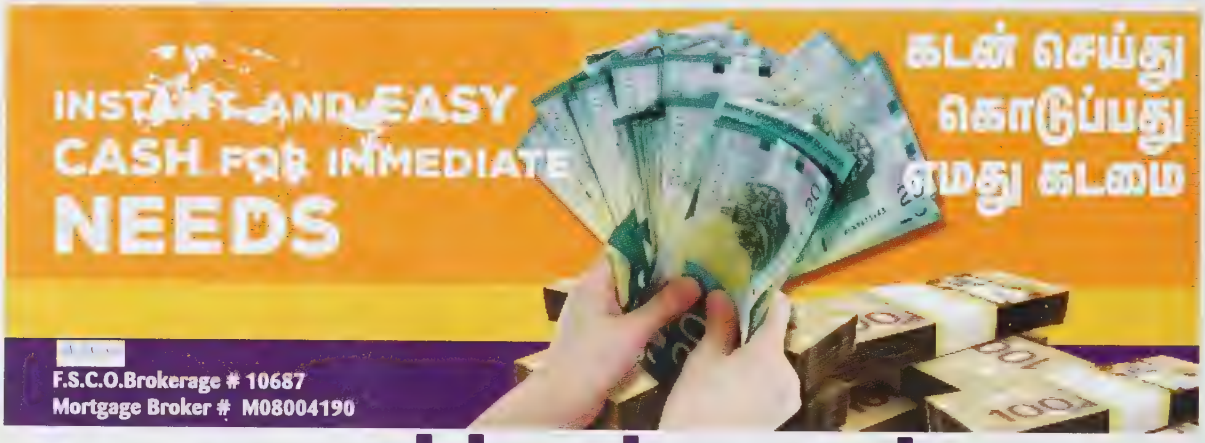

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It should also be mentioned that **Mr. Xavier Seemampillai**, Vice President of the Association and a former teacher and Prefect of games of our College was an ardent supporter to the President at all his activities and undertakings thereby making all the events ventured unto by the President a glowing success. When our former Rector Rev Fr Bernard visited Canada it was Mr. Xavier who took the initiative to invite him to his residence along with all the committee members and had a pleasant get together. Needless to say that Mr. Xavier should be honored for all his selfless service to the benefit of our Association.

Fr. Rector Bernard

Mr. X.F Xavier

Felix Yogaratnam (1999-2000)

During Presidency, the 150th year Anniversary of our college was celebrated and he organized a pop music show by inviting the Tamil KING OF POP MUSIC at that time, Mr. A.E. Manoharan as the Chief Guest. Everyone who worked and helped the Association was awarded a beautiful Jubilee shield. He deserves to be appreciated for this as it had happened for the first time in the history of our Association. With much gratitude, we also like to place on record our sincere admiration to our long standing members Mr. Joseph Selvanayagam and Mr. Logan Kumarguru for their help to make this event he should also be commended for printing a special T-shirt with the college shield and motto imprinted on it.

Joseph Selvanayagam

Logan Kumaraguru

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(LATE) Mr. Sebastiampillai (2000- 2001)

The first ever highly acclaimed Global union of old patricians was held in Toronto, Canada during his period as President. The main personality behind this was Ranjan Ferdinand from Australia and our own Sathi Aloysius. They certainly deserves our kudos and honor and that of all Patricians around the world. We appreciate the services of our former President and the king of ball room dancing Mr. John Edirmanasinghe, our voluntary photographer who never fails to put the photos of all who attend our functions on the website, named INTERSECTOR, which was created by Mr. Sathy Aloysius, along with with these three, there were others, Mr. Gerard Simompillai, Mr. E.J. Anton and A.P. Joseph to mention a few who were always with them to make this programme a majestic success. All these six people deserve to be honored by the Patrician family.

Sathi Aloysius

Ferdinand

John Edirmanassinghe

Mr. Manuel Jesudasan (2001 – 2003)

It was during his tenure as President that in the history of our Association the largest amount of financial support was sent to our college in Jaffna. He deserves to be honored for his hard work and enthusiasm.

Not only he is an eminent Lawyer but also a well-known artist, famed for the traditional performance of Natta Koothu . It was during his time for the first time in the name of our Association, he staged a Tamil cultural show in the form of NAATTU KOOTHU and in that play he himself acted the main part and won the hearts of the audience. Furthermore, even now he does free legal services to our Association. We are proud to record that it was in his period the Perpetual Fund account was opened in Sri Lanka.

Anton Sinnarasa (2003 -2005)

During his time, a lively musical show was arranged. He invited a Music group named SRUTHI and they did a gala show at the science center to the praise and appreciation of all present. He deserves to be honored for this initiative. We should also honor Mr.Anandan, brother in law of the President for his very active participation in organizing this music programme leading it to a splendid success. We very much appreciate the President for organizing a Grand welcome party to our former Rector Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph when he came to Canada on a personal and private visit.

Unfortunately it was our Rector's last visit to Canada.

Fr Rector Francis Joseph

Anthony Anandam

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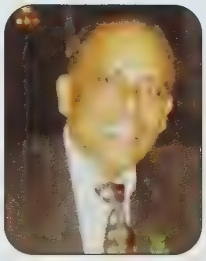
- Green programs available

Mr. Herman Vijeyakumer (2005 -2007)

He is a talented leader and an efficient organizer. During his time in office as President, he took the initiative to organize a Children's Christmas party and that tradition he inaugurated is being carried out annually. With a wealth of professional experience in having served in several main stream Canadian organizations, he brought his experience to strengthen us. He was also a very active member in our OBA in Colombo Sri Lanka. He is a man of diverse talents and potentials. He gave a new impetus to our Association and made our website more dynamic and up-to-date. His dedication and his willingness to give countless number of hours of his precious time in producing video clips promoting his Alma Mater is nothing short of legendary. We are lucky to have such a versatile individual in our team. He volunteered to undertake free of charge the provision of photos, music, videos and sometimes helped as DJ and MC. He deserves to be honored for all these and especially for the historic designing of our Association's flag. We highly appreciate the president for organizing a grand welcome party to our former rector and present Bishop of Jaffna His Lordship Justin Gnanapragasam
All the functions held during his time in a grandiose manner.

His Lordship

Mr. John Edirmanassinghe



He was a talented president and conducted all our annual events joyfully and successfully he played a main role in our first global re-union in year 2001. During our annual dinner dance he organized a dancing programmed called "Red Think" which was fantastic. All those who took part did marvelously well. He deserved to be honored for this and to all his unselfish services to our association.

Mr. Andrew Rajasingam

During his presidency all our annual events were held very successfully on a grand scale. In addition to our annual event, He deserved to be praised for celebrating the sacerdotal Silver jubilee of our rector Rev Fr.Jerome Selvanagagam on his visit to Canada with the members and their families to the great satisfaction of all the people. He should be honored in a special manner for his selfless service.

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Gilory Ponniah (2010 -2012)

It was during his time the Silver Jubilee (our 25th anniversary) Alumni Association of Canada was celebrated on a grand scale. For the first time in 25 years the hall was fully packed with old boys and their families leading to a record number of attendees. The attendance exceeded our wildest expectations topping the 600 mark. He deserves to be honored for this milestone. Our deep sense of gratitude should be extended to the Vice President and Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Organizing Committee, Mr. Packiareginold Nicholapillai. His contributions to make this event a magnificent success deserve our honor and admiration. Mr. Reginald had experience of serving in the committee of management of the Association in Jaffna and Colombo. We honor him loudly for the support he gave to the President. It was also during Mr. Gilroy Ponniah's time as President, the VANNI TRUST FUND was created and its being successfully operated up to now. Here we should honor Mr. Packiareginauld, Jeho Joseph and Anton Rajindrakumar for their magnanimity and support given to the President to create this fund.

We should not forget to compliment these people for publishing an impressive Silver Jubilee Magazine.

Reginauld

Jehu Joseph

Mr. Gerard Simonnpillai (2014 -2016)

His period of presidency was one of the best. He strained himself out to give a new and assertive life to our Association. He pushed for a membership drive and no stone was left unturned to increase the number of membership and to increase the number of life members. He was very successful in doing this. He should be proudly honored for this effort. Not only that every function that took place in our Association was done in a grand scale but it should be stated that if any shortage of goods occurred in any function of our Association, he was always there to supply at half the cost or free of charge all that was needed. This magnanimity started from the initial stages of our association. His donations to the Alumni are countless to be mentioned in a short paragraph. In his period as President he expressed his gratitude to the former teachers of our college. He invited our popular teacher in Physics at our school Mr. D. S. Gnanapragasam, endearingly known as Gangnam Master and honored him at our Annual dinner dance.

Mr. Gnanapragasam's former student Mr. Anton Rajinthrakumar gave a soul stirring speech about Mr. Gnanam's knowledge, his teaching ability and the foundation he gave to his students. This was appreciated by many who attended the function.

Gnanam Master

Ragindrakumar

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Mr. Junold Francis – The Incumbent President - 2016

Mr. Judenorld Francis was unanimously elected as the president of the association at the annual general meeting in 2016. Before that, he served as a very efficient and dynamic vice president (2014-2016.)

As a businessman, Jude is the president of the JC's Group of Companies.

Last year Judenorld and his classmates (1990 AL Batch) donated a luxury bus to our St. Patrick's College. Jude and his class deserves recognition for this great gesture of goodwill and generosity.

The Christmas party organized by Judenorld last year as president was very well attended by former students and their families. The high quality of the program that was put together for the evening was admired by everyone. We are indeed fortunate to have Judenorld as president for our 30th anniversary on June 24, 2017.

Judenorld wanted to support war-affected people - especially the differently abled. Under the invitation of the founder of VAROD, Rev. Fr Albert J Arulraja CMF Claretian missionaries, Jude enlisted support of friends and founded the VAROD Canada Foundation Nov. 10, 2012. The group regularly organizes activities to support the empowerment of differently abled persons.

Mr. X. R. Francis, the father of Judenorld, made remarkable contributions to our association's administrative committees in Jaffna, Colombo and Toronto. He deserves very special recognition for his availability, advice and encouragement that he gave us over the years. We are confident that Jude will follow on his father's footsteps and continue to offer his support to us always.

We pray to our Patron St. Patrick to bless him.

Committee meeting at JC Banquet Hall

DISCLAIMER:

It was not our intention to distort, omit or promote any particular individual or organization. We presented facts as they occurred for the past 30 years to the best of our knowledge. If any individual or organization feel that facts were not presented correctly, we sincerely apologize from the bottom of our hearts. Please bring the anomaly to our attention and we will remedy that in our next publication.

Compiled by Founder Members.

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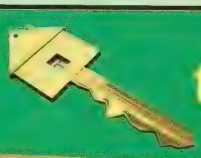
I am the  to the HOME of your Dreams

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Thavaratnam, Gabriel Roshan

William, Ben Suren

Xavier, Basil

Xavier, Eric Niranjan,

Yogaretnam, Felix

School Bus donated by 1990 Batch

Dear Patricians of 1990 Batch,

Acknowledgement and Gratitude

Warm Greetings from St. Patrick's College, Jaffna!

The Patrician Family was much delighted to receive a New College Bus from Patricians 1990 Batch. It was a timely need that you had attended to. We have been spending so much for the travelling of Sports Groups for various competitions and Educational Field trips. The presentation of a New College Bus helps for a big saving on the expenses of the College.

We express our deep gratitude to all the Batchmates of Patricians 1990 for the generous donation to the College and caring for our needs.

The Ceremonial presentation was held on 11th November 2016 in the College Sports Arena. We were deeply impressed by the Patrician Spirit shown in this event. The 1990 Batch, felicitated their Teachers as well. They presented a token of gratitude to each Teacher who had moulded their future. Mr. Godwin Babu donated a Colour Photocopy Machine to the College on that day which is again a big asset to the college. As a token of gratitude mementos were presented to the donors by the Rector.

You have set a fine example and inspired many Patrician Year Groups to meet together, care for each other and help the college with an appropriate project.

We admire your loyalty and gratefulness towards the Alma Mater.

May God Bless you and your families.

Rev. Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam
Rector

From the depths of our hearts and minds.....

We are delighted to present this Canadian Patrician 30th Anniversary Souvenir. We sincerely hope that this souvenir will reach out to the hearts and minds of not only the Patricians but also the friends and well-wishers of Patricians. As all of us are aware, St. Patrick's College Jaffna is an illustrious institution that has positively shaped the lives of those who have entered its portals.

SPC Jaffna Alumni Members, often regarded as ambassadors of the institution, are a link between the Alma Mater and the world – world of sciences, world of business and world of technology -that brings new challenges and avenues to the young generation. In addition, it is strongly affirmed that wherever alumnus of St. Patrick's College Jaffna stands for truth, justice and welfare of the people, they bear witness to the values of Alma Mater.

Events organized or coordinated by SPC Jaffna Alumni Association Ontario in Toronto provide an excellent opportunity for alumni members, who live in North America to renew the umbilical bondage and cherish the great Patrician Spirit. Further, alumni members can also create opportunities to share how they developed themselves under the shade of SPC Jaffna and blossomed themselves from the foundation received from the college. Above all, they could surely contribute to the growth of the institution and render their support to make SPC Jaffna reach further heights.

At this juncture, we would like to record sincere gratitude and appreciation to our:

- Chief Guest - Rev. Dr. S.J. Emmanuel from Germany for gracing this 30th Anniversary Green & Gold Gala Celebration.
- Special Guest of Honour - Dr. S. Poologanathan for attending our function all the way from the U.K.
- Special Guest of Honour - Gary Anandasangaree M.P. for his benevolent presence in our gala event
- Event Sponsors and Donors of door prizes for their generosity
- Table Sponsors and Event Facilitators for their kind help
- Energetic and enthusiastic volunteers for their timely assistance
- Monara graphic designing & printing for high-quality work
- Message & Article authors and documentary producers for their excellent contribution
- Advertisement Sponsors for their solid monetary support
- Gala Night venue host Hilton Toronto/ Markham & JC's Banquet & Catering for their professionalism
- MCs, DJ, Photographer, Videographer, Members of the Band, Solo Singers and Performers for their outstanding work
- Present and past members of the Committee of Management, Patricians and friends for making this 30th Anniversary Celebration of our Alumni Association and Publication of this Souvenir a great success.

நன்றி
Thank you
Merci

Canadian Patrician 30th Anniversary Souvenir Committee:
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